

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, DECEMBER 3 2020 AT 9:00 AM

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:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/99226555978>

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +16699006833,,99226555978# or +12532158782,,99226555978#

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or 877 853 5247 (Toll Free) or 888 788 0099 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0276 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0282 (Toll Free)

Slowly enter the Webinar ID: 992 2655 5978

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/u/aesQzmPcDE>

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 scplboardclerk@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 scplboardclerk@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:

- Identify the agenda item
- Type your comment using the Q&A feature of the Zoom teleconference participant panel

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

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

- You may ask your question aloud, by raising your hand during the comment period for that item and the moderator will call on you using your name or the last 3 digits of your phone number.
- You will have three minutes of speaking time.
- If you are accessing the meeting using your telephone, press *9 to raise your hand.
- If you are accessing the meeting using the Zoom url, use the raise hand feature in Zoom.
- To comment via open mic, Press *9 - to raise your hand. The moderator will announce your name or last three digits of your phone number when it is your turn. *6 - Toggle the mute/unmute.

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**

**[IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SANTA CRUZ LIBRARIES
FACILITIES FINANCING AUTHORITY (LFFA)]**

THURSDAY DECEMBER 3, 2020

9:00 A.M.

**CLOSED SESSION –
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE REGULAR MEETING**

An announcement regarding the items to be discussed in Closed Session will be made prior to the Closed Session. Members of the public may, at this time, address the Board on closed session items only. There will be a report of any final decisions during the next Open Session Meeting.

Public Employee Performance Evaluation
[Cal. Govt. Code §54957 (b)]
Joint Powers Authority Board's Performance Evaluation of the Library Director

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 – December 2020 (PG.7-8)

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 October 1, 2020 LJPA Board Meeting Minutes
Staff Recommendation: Approve the LJPA October 1, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes (PG.9-11)
- B. Recent Articles about Santa Cruz Public Libraries.
Staff Recommendation: Accept and File Recent Articles about SCPL (PG.12-67)
- C. Community Impact Measures for 1st Qtr. FY 2020-2021
Staff Recommendation: Accept and File 1st Qtr. Community Impact Measures for FY 2020-2021 (PG.68-77)
- D. Financial Report for 1st Qtr. FY 2020-2021
Staff Recommendation: Accept and File 1st Qtr. Financial Report for FY 2020-2021 (PG.78-83)
- E. Incident Report for 1st Qtr. FY 2020-2021
Staff Recommendation: Accept and File 1st Qtr. Incident Report for FY 2020-2021. (PG.84-85)

- F. Work Plan for 1st Qtr. FY 2020-2021
Staff Recommendation: Accept and File 1st Qtr. Work Plan for FY 2020-2021 (PG.86-93)
- G. National Medal for Museum and Library Services
Staff Recommendation: Accept and File Letter of Support (PG.94)
- H. Library Sales Tax Revenue Update for 1st Qtr. FY 2020-2021
Staff Recommendation: Accept and File Library Sales Tax Revenue Update for 1st Qtr. FY 2020-2021 (PG.95-96)

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. Library Operational Recommendations under Covid-19
Staff Recommendation: Review and Endorse Library Operation Recommendations under Covid-19 (PG.97-100)
- B. FY 20/21 Budget Update #3
Staff Recommendation: Approve an additional \$400,000 to the Santa Cruz Public Libraries for staffing and collections in anticipation of changes in service levels resulting from the remodeling and new constructions of branches. (PG.101-104)
- C. Determine Annual Meeting Schedule for 2021
Staff Recommendation: Adopt Proposed Annual Meeting Schedule 2021 (PG.105-106)

11. SCHEDULED UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 4, 2021	Virtual Meeting	Anticipated Upcoming Agenda Items:
9:00 am		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Director Performance Evaluation – continued • Library Leases • MOE Discussion • Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2021 • 2nd Qtr. Reports

12. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

Public Employee Performance Evaluation
[Cal. Govt. Code §54957 (b)]
Joint Powers Authority Board's Performance Evaluation of the Library Director

Adjourned to the next regular meeting of the LJPA to be held on Thursday, February 4, 2021 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

December 2020



Library Director's Report to the JPA

I am so sad to report the unexpected passing of Bob White. Bob was currently serving as Chair of the Santa Cruz County Library Advisory Commission representing Capitola. According to the Santa Cruz Sentinel, Bob was an Assistant University Librarian at UCSC for 26 years where he was happily part of the teams that built the award-winning Science and Engineering Library and the McHenry Library addition and renovation. Up to his passing, he volunteered his time and expertise for the new branch library in Capitola. He loved libraries and was so grateful to be part of three library building projects. Bob is survived by his wife of nearly 50 years, Bonda; his beloved Persian rescue cat, Mason; his brother, Thomas of Black Hills, South Dakota; his extended family of Angus and Susan MacMillan of Felton; and his three amazing Godchildren, Landis, Claire and Ian Ross MacMillan. A room at the Capitola Branch will be named in his honor.

The Library has moved beyond fire evacuations and air quality closures and is in the middle of implementing its new service plan as discussed at the September 2020 Library Advisory Committee Meeting. Full implementation begins on November 16. Staff begin new schedules and assignments, the move from curbside to lobby Grab and Go is fully implemented, expanded hours are starting and public computing will be available at 4 of 5 libraries.

The following is from a SCPL press release:

SCPL Reorganizes to Provide Fast and Easy Pickup, Later Closing Times, and Computers

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries (SCPL) will implement service changes that makes picking up library materials easier, provides access to computers, and expands service hours starting this November.

As fall weather approaches, SCPL recognizes the need to begin offering services safely indoors. Grab & Go lobby service allows patrons to enter library lobbies to retrieve library materials on hold. There is no need to call the branch upon arrival. Patrons will need to have their library card numbers and PIN or password to check out items using our self-checkout machines. An alternative method is for patrons to check out items themselves using our mobile app, available in iOS and Android app stores. Grab & Go will replace Curbside Pickup at the Aptos, Felton, Downtown, and Live Oak Branches beginning on November 9th. The Scotts Valley Branch is currently closed for construction and will open for Grab & Go service on November 16th.

Expanded hours intended to make the library more accessible to commuters and seniors are also part of the new service changes. All Grab & Go Branches will extend afternoon hours to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday starting November 14th. Each branch also offers one day per week with morning hours.

In addition to 24/7 WiFi and print job pickup already available at our service locations, we will introduce indoor computer access on November 14th. A limited number of computers will be available for 45 minute sessions on a first come-first served basis at the Aptos, Downtown, Felton, and Scotts Valley Branches. (Currently, the Downtown Library has an outdoor computer lab that will move indoors. Scotts Valley's service will begin on November 16th when it reopens). Printing from library computers will also be available.

Library Director Susan Nemitz says, "When the pandemic first hit, we assigned more of our staff to support patrons by phone and online. We also sought innovative ways to support children and teachers in their new online learning environment. Staff also visited students when they picked up their lunches at school and provided services for them outside the walls of our library; and we have converted our programming, including story time, into live virtual experiences. We will continue to evolve safely in order to meet the many needs that our community seeks from its Library."

These changes have not been without significant concerns expressed by the staff and their unions. Ongoing issues around safety and staff workload continue to be discussed.

Repair of the Scotts Valley Branch's roof and replacement of its HVAC system proved too disruptive and the branch has temporarily closed until next week. Patron materials were temporarily sent to Felton for continued service for patrons.

The Felton Library is located within the Debris Flow Zone. Evacuation procedures are being developed.

The Volunteer Wings Homeless Advocates began holding weekly office hours outside of the Downtown Library providing free birth certificates and notary services for people experiencing homelessness.

New People & Stories volunteer-facilitated tele-classes in the County jail facilities have begun. The program brings literature to people who might not otherwise have access. Readings & discussions invite underserved participants to fresh understandings of themselves, of others, and of the world. Completion certificate counts toward early release. Staff also developed deposit book collection for Juvenile Hall. The Bookmobile is providing deposit collections to different senior and day care centers across the county.

The Library concluded its participation in the 2020 Census program reaching over 1,600 individuals in the hard to count category.

SCPL hosted The Teen Volunteer to Career Expo (co-sponsored by Your Future is Our Business). This was a virtual event exhibiting presenters, community organizations, and online resources to empower teens with community service and work-based learning opportunities. 114 individuals attended and 90% of the teens found a volunteer opportunity. Six community organizations partnered on the event.

Staff provided over 1,400 craft kits and books to children and their families at school lunch sites funded through a State grant.

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

1. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Tina Friend, Jamie Goldstein, Martin Bernal, Nicole Coburn (Alternate for Carlos Palacios)

STAFF: Library Director Susan Nemitz, Assistant Director Eric Howard

2. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

None

3. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA

The Agenda of October 1, 2020 was approved by consensus.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

5. REPORT BY LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Susan Nemitz reported on the recent activities of the Library which included an update on the status of Library facilities.

6. FRIENDS OF THE SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARIES REPORT

Martin Gomez and Cindy Jackson reported on the recent activities of the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries.

7. REPORT BY LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC)

Susan Nemitz reported on the recent LAC meeting.

8. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Director Friend expressed her appreciation of staff and the Library's support of the needs of CalFire during the most recent fire emergency. Work on the Scotts Valley Library Branch is about to start: roof replacement and HVAC and a kick-off meeting with Group 4 took place.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

RESULT: APPROVED CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approved the August 6, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes;**
- B. Accepted and Filed Recent Articles about SCPL;**
- C. Approved Holiday Closure Schedule for 2020, which is different than the Holiday Policy #108 adopted in 2019;**
- D. Approved \$50,000 from the Friends of the Libraries for Solar Panels for the Capitola Branch Library. [UNANIMOUS]**

MOVER: Nicole Coburn

SECONDER: Tina Friend

AYES: Friend, Goldstein, Bernal, Coburn

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. FY 20/21 Budget Update.

Library Director Susan Nemitz did not recommend to make any changes to the budget at the present time. Expenditure projections are in line with the initial budget plan and MOE fund allocations to the Library are not impacted by the fire. Reassessments of property taxes are not completed yet.

B. Library Operational Recommendations under COVID-19

Library Director Susan Nemitz and Assistant Director Eric Howard discussed next steps in library operations. The Director presented 7 recommendations for a major re-organization of the library system to be implemented in October. The Board reviewed the suggestions and was supportive of the changes and managements' continuing flexibility and creativity in providing important services to the community.

RESULT: APPROVED LIBRARY OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER COVID-19. [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Martin Bernal

SECONDER: Nicole Coburn

AYES: Friend, Goldstein, Bernal, Coburn

11. Adjournment

Final Adjournment of the Library Joint Powers Authority Board (LJPA) at 6:50 p.m. to the next regular meeting on December 3, 2020 at 9:00 a.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: December 3, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director
RE: Media Packet

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Accept and File the Media Packet for September 28, 2020 through November 12, 2020.

DISCUSSION

This Media packet covers the time period September 28, 2020 through November 12, 2020.

Attachment: Media Packet

Report Prepared by: Diane Cowen,
 Communications Manager

Reviewed and Forwarded by: Susan Nemitz, Library Director

In the News and Media:

September 28 – November 12



Registering to vote during the COVID-19 pandemic

By [Drew Andre](#) September 22, 2020 7:53 pm

<https://www.kionrightnow.com/health/coronavirus/2020/09/22/registering-to-vote-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (KION) It is National Voter Registration Day, and it will look different for many voters this year during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At five different libraries across Santa Cruz County, volunteers set up booths and spread the word about registering to vote online. They've learned voters this year have a lot of questions.

"It's very confusing for the average person including myself," volunteer Lee Ann Gray said. "We want to make sure we're disseminating accurate information and get it out to voters in a timely way."

In Santa Cruz and Watsonville, volunteers made it their mission to register more people to vote. They created a voting caravan with cars decked out reminding people to register.

So far, a record number of Santa Cruz County residents have registered to vote. About 167,000 people have registered- 10,000 more than the 2016 presidential election.

"With people registering through automated registration through DMV, and having online registration where its so easy to register," Registrar of Voters for Santa Cruz Gail Pellerin said.



In this election, every voter will receive a ballot in the mail, which should arrive on Oct . 5. You can track the progress of your ballot [here](#). Voters can then mail their ballot in, drop it off at one of the 15 ballot boxes around the county or vote in person during election week.

“They’re bolted to the ground. Some of them do have cameras on them, and there’s a very small slot to slide the envelop in. We’ve never had a problem,” Pellerin said.

For the hundreds of families that lost their homes in the Santa Cruz mountain wildfires, they can vote in person or if they have a new address can have the ballot sent by mail.

“You don’t have to re-register. We do have a form on our [website](#) where you can easily change your address,” Pellerin said.

For those voting by mail, ballots need to be postmarked by election day on Nov. 3 for it to be counted, and it will be counted as long as it arrives by Nov. 20.



Voter Guide: Capitola City Council

A guide to candidates running for the Capitola City Council

Excerpt of relevant mentions:

POSTED ON OCTOBER 13, 2020

This is part of our [voter guide coverage](#) for the fall 2020 election.

VOTE FOR UP TO TWO

The battle for two seats on the Capitola City Council has three newcomers and an incumbent, who was elected in 2016.

Mayor [Kristen Petersen](#), 33, who is finishing her year-long term as the city’s top elected official, says she hopes to see the [Capitola Library construction](#) through to its end. She says she campaigned for Measure S in 2016, the sales tax measure that funded construction and improvements at libraries throughout Santa Cruz County.

The project, which has transformed the city’s upper east end, is in its final stages. The city will also soon develop Rispin Park just across the street, she says.

“We’re going to have this really amazing space where you can get a library book from our new state-of-the-art library, and go right across the street to this historic park area,” says Petersen, a senior government relations associate for the Silicon Valley Leadership Group.

Capitola is preparing to [redevelop the Capitola Mall](#), a project that could transform the city with a mix of new residential and retail. Petersen calls the project a “huge sea change” for the city that will bring jobs and housing.

“These next four years is when we’re really going to nail down the details, get the groundbreaking hopefully and really ramp up activity in that regard,” she says.

The timing’s significant, Petersen says, as the city faces revenue losses due to Covid-19 closures [affecting small businesses](#), and she says the recovery could last a decade. She says she successfully advocated for getting young people involved in local politics, with students seated on all of the city’s advisory bodies.

Things To Do in Santa Cruz: Sept. 23-29

CLASSES

TECH TALKS: NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR APPLE AND ANDROID

Are you getting the most out of your mobile device? Join us for a discussion about news and entertainment apps. We'll share our joys and disappointments. We look forward to also learning from you. Register at: santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/7049332. Thursday, Sept. 24, 11am.

COMMUNITY

APTOS BRANCH LIBRARY VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE 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. 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 and interior layout. RSVP at: surveymonkey.com/r/NewAptosBranchLibrary. Reserva: surveymonkey.com/r/AptosSRC. Monday, Sept. 28, 5:30pm.

TALES TO TAILS GOES VIRTUAL SCPL's early childhood literacy program, Virtual Tales to Tails, has moved 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.

Things To Do in Santa Cruz: Sept. 30 – Oct. 6

COMMUNITY

TALES TO TAILS GOES VIRTUAL SCPL's early childhood literacy program, Virtual Tales to Tails, has moved 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.

Things To Do in Santa Cruz: Oct. 14-20

ARTS AND MUSIC

STORIES FROM THE EPICENTER: PODCAST LAUNCH EVENT You're invited to join us for the launch of our 10-part documentary podcast, "Stories from the Epicenter," which explores the experience and memory of the Loma Prieta Earthquake in Santa Cruz County through oral history records and interviews with current residents of Santa Cruz and Watsonville. The event will include a moderated discussion with the podcast producers followed by a Q&A with the audience. Clips from the podcast will be integrated into the discussion. The first two episodes will be pre-released on Oct. 14, and a trailer is available now at guides.library.ucsc.edu/DS/DSC/Projects/Epicenter. We encourage you to listen prior to the event. The full series will be available to stream on Oct. 17. Registration is

required: calendar.library.ucsc.edu/calendar/library-events/stories-from-the-epicenter. Once you are registered, Zoom login information will be provided the day of the event. UCSC Zoom meetings now require Zoom 5.0 or newer. Check your version and update to the latest, most secure version. This event will be recorded and made available for subsequent viewing. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions via chat or voice during the Q&A session. Stories from the Epicenter is a production of the University Library at UCSC, in partnership with the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History and Santa Cruz Public Libraries. For more information, visit library.ucsc.edu/StoriesFromTheEpicenter.

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROJECT: GIRLS, WOMEN AND THE MEDIA Join Capitola Vice Mayor Yvette Brooks, the Santa Cruz County Public Library, and community leaders in a dialogue about the film “Miss Representation” (2011). Written and directed by Jennifer Siebel Newsom, the film explores how mainstream media contributes to the under-representation of women in influential positions by circulating limited and often disparaging portrayals of women. Bring your insight, questions, and ideas to help us build a more resilient community by supporting the leadership of girls and women. Miss Representation is available on Kanopy, the library’s free online video streaming service. All you need is your virtual or physical library card and password to watch the film. The film is also available on Netflix. While it is not necessary to watch the film before this event, we highly encourage full participation in this discussion. Thursday, Oct. 15, 6pm. Register online: santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/7132806.

TALES TO TAILS GOES VIRTUAL SCPL’s early childhood literacy program, Virtual Tales to Tails, has moved 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.

Things To Do in Santa Cruz: Oct. 21-27

COMMUNITY

TALES TO TAILS GOES VIRTUAL SCPL’s early childhood literacy program, Virtual Tales to Tails, has moved 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.

Santa Cruz City Council Race: Seven Possible Housing Crisis Solutions

Political consensus on importance of affordable housing is a start

THE SANTA CRUZ CITY COUNCIL APPROVED A 63-UNIT 100% AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMPLEX IN 2012. AFTER CLEARING SOME FINANCING HURDLES, CONSTRUCTION ON THE OCEAN STREET PROJECT IS MOVING FORWARD.

BY [JACOB PIERCE](#) POSTED ON OCTOBER 27, 2020

This is part two of a two-part [series on housing](#) in Santa Cruz. — Editor

Author Conor Dougherty has started calling the housing crisis “our national local problem.”

In his book *Golden Gates: Fighting for Housing in America*, which came out earlier this year, Dougherty revisits the early days of the national housing crisis, starting from its epicenter in 1970s California, particularly the San Francisco Bay Area, and follows the ripples out across the rest of the United States. Economists have been documenting California's housing shortage for more than 40 years. In the decades since, the state has only seen housing get more crowded and watched its homeless population grow, all while wealth inequalities continue to balloon across the nation.

Fixing a shortage of this kind isn't as easy as simply erecting a crane or two and throwing a few hammers around, however. The politics can get tricky. In *Golden Gates*, Dougherty traces the cleavages that reshape the political coalitions in liberal coastal cities.

Discussions around plans for new growth, for example, can get messy quickly. Anti-gentrification activists—worried about displacement from an influx of new capital and residents—sometimes form unlikely partnerships with homeowners—who dislike tall buildings in the town they call home for purely aesthetic reasons. On the other side of these fights there are housing advocates, including ones who have, at times, failed to either grasp the power of such coalitions or to truly understand the fears of very low-income tenants who are already struggling to make ends meet and may not see the benefits of new high-rises.

Dougherty, an economics reporter for *The New York Times*, says what drew him to cover this problem was twofold: first, how its existence was universally acknowledged by everyone from former President Barack Obama to libertarian think tanks; and secondly, how no one really believed it could be solved.

"It starts to raise big questions about who we really are and what kind of society we've constructed and why," Dougherty, whose book covers San Francisco, Silicon Valley and the East Bay, tells *GT*.

Here in Santa Cruz, there's an overwhelming political consensus around the value of building affordable housing. That's obviously a start, but because nothing is as simple as it seems, that does leave the door open to unresolved issues, like how many affordable units Santa Cruz will really be able to approve, who's going to pay for them and how they will do so.

With Election Day arriving this week, here is a look at seven possible ideas from the [Santa Cruz City Council race](#).

1. BUILD AFFORDABLE HOUSING WHERE POSSIBLE

There may only be one area where [all nine candidates](#) agree on housing policy. That's probably as good a place as any other to begin.

All the candidates in the Santa Cruz City Council race support building 100% affordable housing, where possible, on city-owned land. This could lead to partnerships with a nonprofit housing developer, which could design new complexes for lower-income residents. Of course, building affordable housing is not as simple as simply convincing the City Council to wave a magic wand and approve the perfect project, using a giant big bucket of free money. Housing is expensive to build, especially when it's made affordable to tenants. Paying the bill inevitably involves chasing down government, investor, crowdfunding, grant or community trust dollars. One of the major expenses involved in building, however, is the cost of land. By taking that cost out of the equation, the city could provide more bang for the buck—both for builders and for future tenants of good housing projects.

Even this area of agreement does, however, leave the door open for other questions. For starters, how should Santa Cruz plan affordable housing buildings? And which city-owned parcels are most suitable for new units?

2. STUDY THE DOWNTOWN MIXED-USE PROJECT

Santa Cruz has been moving toward building a [new project downtown](#), with 50 units of affordable housing, 400 parking spaces and a 21st-century library on the first floor.

This would open up the site of the current library for new affordable housing construction. It would further pave the way for additional housing on other parcels, including parking surface parking lots and cut their costs, so that they would not have to provide on-site parking.

“That’s 50 more units of housing in Santa Cruz *that we need*,” stresses Downtown Association Operations Director Sonja Brunner, a candidate who supports the project.

In addition, four other candidates support the project—Councilmember Martine Watkins, grant writer Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson, nonprofit executive Maria Cadenas, and scientist Elizabeth Conlan.

The new building would go in what is currently Lot 4, on the corner of Cathcart and Cedar Street. If, in future years, the project ends up with too much parking, Santa Cruz could convert levels of parking to more housing. Or the city could take its [aging parking structures offline and replace them](#) with even more affordable housing. The proposal has 200 fewer parking spaces than previous iterations of the garage plan.

The idea hasn’t garnered universal appeal. Nonprofit media director Kelsey Hill doesn’t support the downtown mixed-use project, because she opposes the parking garage portion. She is, however, comforted by the fact that—if the project does go through—at least the affordable housing piece could have a positive impact. Running alongside her, Councilmember Sandy Brown, nonprofit executive Kayla Kumar, and homeless advocate Alicia Kuhl also oppose the mixed-use project. (Brown did briefly support the project earlier this year, when serving on the Downtown Library Subcommittee, but she has been running against it.)

There is a group of activists—many of them members of the Don’t Bury the Library club—whose primary concern is that they love the current library where it is. Other activists worry about the impact of building new parking spots on Santa Cruz’s carbon emission goals.

And the beloved Wednesday farmers market [would have to move](#). The plan is to move it to a new site at a different lot, where it would get its own permanent pavilion. Nonetheless, more than any other issue, it is really the farmers market that is central to the opposition to the project. Former Mayor Don Lane—an affordable housing advocate, who supports the mixed-use project—[noted recently on his blog](#) that environmental opponents of the parking garage portion had the opportunity to push for a different structure with no parking and more housing. Such a movement never materialized.

In recent years, opponents have often pretended that building the mixed-use project would mean death to the farmers market. That isn’t the case, but the narrative does persist. A recent [political mailer](#) to Santa Cruz city residents made an argument to that effect and included no mention of the fact that the market’s move would be one-and-a-half blocks away—from Cathcart and Cedar to Cathcart and Front.

But in the interest of good-faith messaging, it is also important to bear in mind something else: as much as everyone loves affordable housing, no one can really say for sure at this point that 100% of the units will really end up being affordable.

There's only so much affordable housing money to go around. The city of Santa Cruz has to file applications and compete for much of the money. Here, it may be worth considering a hypothetical. Let's say the city has a certain amount of affordable housing money and has to decide between using that cash to either build 50 units on the mixed-use site or to build 100 units at a proposed affordable housing complex on Pacific Avenue. The choice should be easy. Santa Cruz should leverage its money to build more—not fewer—affordable housing units, regardless of political considerations or campaign promises, even if it means the units don't go into the mixed-use project. So that is not out of the realm of possibility, and it should be stated plainly, so that everyone can agree on what they're arguing about.

Be that as it may, supporters say that—even if the mixed-use project doesn't end up totally affordable—several of its other benefits still stand. It still provides parking for other housing projects and still frees up other lots for future development, all while providing a brand-new library. Supporters also say that market-rate (i.e. not-so-affordable) units still help Santa Cruz inch forward on meeting the demand for housing in an area where housing construction hasn't kept pace with population growth or with demand.

That, however, is another policy schism, where many candidates disagree with one another.

3. LOOK AT AFFORDABLE REQUIREMENTS

Kumar, Hill, Brown and Kuhl talk a lot about “real affordable housing,” and say they're the only candidates sticking up for true solutions.

What they're talking about is the required affordable housing that developers must build in every complex, whenever they break ground. The actual requirements have ping-ponged around in recent years, due to a combination of confusing case law, changes in California legislation, competing theories of economics and shifting City Council politics. Over the years, the Santa Cruz City Council actually lowered the affordability requirement—known as the inclusionary rate—down to 10%, from 15% in most of the city. The council did that because an economic analysis found that a high inclusionary rate raised the cost of housing too much, ensuring that little to no housing would get built—either affordable or market-rate. There have also been ways for developers to pay fees to get out of building the units, instead funding other affordable housing construction off-site.

Then, a pre-recall majority raised the inclusionary rate back up to 15% last year and then up to 20%—over the concerns of some housing advocacy groups, like Santa Cruz YIMBY and Affordable Housing Now. And that is where the inclusionary rate sits now.

Kumar, Hill, Brown and Kuhl all say that 20% is the right rate. They want to make sure developers actually build those units on-site, making the bet that moving in this direction will hopefully lead to more affordable housing production. Their belief is that market-rate units—i.e., the other 80% of the housing in a new housing complex—provide little to no public benefit.

“My focus is meeting the explicit needs of people who live and work in Santa Cruz,” Kumar says.

Watkins, on the other hand, says she would be interested in possibly revisiting the inclusionary rate and lowering them back to what the economic analyses indicated they should be.

“I fall back on the data and what that shows me,” she says. “I struggle with how to reconcile my personal beliefs around having the ultimate amount of inclusionary and what the data tells you.”

Watkins adds, though, that she would start by consulting with staff about their recommendations first. After all, the uncertainty wrought by constantly changing rules can create confusion, along with unintended consequences all their own, she says.

4. BUILD DIFFERENT KINDS OF HOUSING

Kalantari-Johnson says she's grown tired of a heartbreaking trend in recent years. She's watched as middle-income families—often teachers, firefighters and social workers—moved away from Santa Cruz, often leaving the state, due to the high cost of housing.

She says Santa Cruz needs a variety of types of housing to meet a variety of incomes, especially when market-rate units can help offset the costs of affordable ones. Brunner also supports housing for a variety of incomes. She serves on the Housing Authority of Santa Cruz County's board, and she says that one benefit of market-rate housing is that those with Section 8 vouchers may move into those units. The Housing Authority has managed to increase its voucher program, but in many years, more than 200 low-income tenants who've waited in line for years for a voucher ultimately have it expire before they are able to use it.

On top of that, there's the question of single-family zoning. Conlan and Cadenas both support taking a hard look at zoning questions to allow for more units on some parcels. Cadenas—who serves as the executive director of Santa Cruz Community Ventures and has spent her career working on equity issues—says that allowing for duplexes or other forms of light density in some areas will not change the character of Santa Cruz. But she knows there will still be questions along the way, including ideas about how Santa Cruz's neighborhoods should look. She says there could be some tough conversations in that space.

"Part of it is that we don't want to move away from the aesthetics of single-family homes, and I'd just like to say that, at its core, it's not about aesthetics; it's about human life and human well-being. And how do we move in that direction while maintaining the diversity that makes us unique?" says Cadenas, who currently spends most of her income on rent, due to the high cost of housing. "Santa Cruz is not unique because we have single-family homes. Santa Cruz is unique because we have artists and tech entrepreneurs, and we have students, and we have grandparents. That's what makes Santa Cruz unique, and if we lose that to become an aging, high-cost city for vacation homes, then we've lost an opportunity to really be a model for what an integrated, diverse city could be."

5. PROTECT TENANTS

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, state-sanctioned eviction moratoriums—like the one approved by the Santa Cruz City Council—are stopping renters from being kicked to the curb.

The pandemic's economic uncertainty has exposed the underlying vulnerability of the neediest Californians. It has simultaneously changed much of the discussion around compassion. Coupled with the state's rent cap bill and a local relocation assistance law, many renters have some sense of security right now. But after getting a couple extensions, the eviction moratorium is [scheduled to expire](#) at the end of January 2021.

Conlan, Cadenas, Brown, Hill and Kumar all support strengthening tenant protections. Tenant protections can be something of a third rail in Santa Cruz politics (see the rent control debate from 2018). And the stronger the protections are, the more likely they are to alter the landscape of rental housing, incentivizing landlords to sell their homes or to convert their apartments into condominiums. The research shows that such reductions make it more expensive for those looking for a place to rent.

But tenant protections also prevent displacement by stopping people from getting priced out. Not only that, but they exist in a space where local governments can take action swiftly, whereas housing approvals, zoning changes and construction projects can all draw out for years.

6. REVISIT OLD FINDINGS

In 2018, Watkins did a lot of work around housing affordability that she's still really proud of. Really, it started in 2017 with then-Mayor Cynthia Chase's "year of housing," when Chase went around Santa Cruz, talking to various stakeholder groups about their concerns and ideas for how to improve housing affordability. Those ideas went into the Housing Blueprint Subcommittee, which Watkins served on alongside Chase and Brown—although Brown quickly distanced herself from some of the findings, including the plan to reduce the city's inclusionary rate. The ambitious report made a wide variety of findings on how to encourage more accessory dwelling units, how to bring down construction costs, how to incentivize affordable-by-design types of housing.

But shortly after the council finalized the findings, a different council majority—one that included Councilmember Brown—took the helm and made a pivot on affordable housing policy. Last year, Brown made a motion to [kill Santa Cruz's Corridor Zoning Update](#), even though it had already been back-burnered. Planning Director Lee Butler warned that the move would eat up staff time and cause delays toward implementing the Housing Blueprint Subcommittee recommendations.

Thanks in part to the hard work of former Mayor Chase, Watkins says there was a lot of buy-in around the ideas in the committee's recommendations, making them a great jumping off point and a great place to return to. She, Brunner and Kalantari-Johnson all say they would like to see Santa Cruz get back to the work laid out in those recommendations.

7. ASK THE VOTERS

To many affordable housing supporters, one of Santa Cruz's great policy failures has been two years in the rear view mirror.

In November of 2018, an affordable housing bond did not get the two-thirds voter approval from Santa Cruz County it needed to pass. In the years since, there has been wrangling about other ideas for taxes, including the possibility of a tax on second homes. The city could use that revenue to fund affordable housing. Brown, Kumar and Hill all invoke this strategy as part of the solution to the housing crisis.

It isn't actually clear, however, how much money such a measure would really raise. Although he was just spitballing, City Manager Martín Bernal indicated at a recent media call about the budget that a vacancy tax may raise less than \$1 million annually; that's probably not enough to fund two affordable units per year, unless Santa Cruz finds a way to dramatically cut construction costs. Also, city voters would need to approve such a tax by a two-thirds margin for it all to go toward one use, like affordable housing.

But part of the thinking around a vacancy tax—in one form or another—is that it could function as a disincentive against the wealthy hoarding houses all for themselves.

BUILD IT TOGETHER

Dougherty, the author of *Golden Gates*, stresses that there is no one single solution to the housing crisis.

Amid heartbreak, struggle and severe poverty, his book does find reasons for optimism. He sees it in everything from cost-saving methods in new kinds of housing construction to a fresh generation of activists committed to finding real solutions to the housing crisis.

In the end, he recommends a mixed approach. For example, California could ramp up its housing construction, while also strengthening protections to keep tenants in their homes. There are many benefits to this approach, Dougherty argues. For one thing, tenant protections and increased housing supply can work in concert with one another. In this context, each of these two policies functions like something of a pressure release valve for the other. Protecting tenants can reduce the potential gentrification pressures from new development. And new development, meanwhile, can reduce the potential rental housing supply issues created by new tenant protections.

But just as importantly, this approach can be a winning strategy—one that can earn buy-in from all sorts of tenant, progressive and housing groups, Dougherty says, on the way to drafting a new blueprint for a more affordable California.

“That is sort of how a democracy works,” he says. “People figure out where their common interests are and push for common solutions. Over the long run, it generally works.”

Update Oct. 28 7:30pm: An earlier version of this story misidentified the name of the Santa Cruz parking lot where the new downtown mixed-use project would go.

Plans Advance for New, Larger Aptos Branch Library

Permitting process begins for 12,400 square-foot replacement

THE APTOS BRANCH LIBRARY, BUILT IN 1975, IS SLATED FOR DEMOLITION AND REPLACEMENT IN 2021. PHOTO: TARMO HANNULA

BY [TARMO HANNULA](#) POSTED ON OCTOBER 26, 2020

Plans are moving forward with the Aptos Branch Library project to raze the existing 8,000-square-foot building, near the corner of State Park and Soquel drives, and build a 12,400-square-foot replacement.

While the wrecking ball isn't expected to swing loose until next summer, sweeping strides have been made in the planning phase, which drew strong input and fundraising from the community, said Susan M. Nemitz, Director of Santa Cruz Public Libraries.

“After a year-long community design process, the Santa Cruz Public Libraries are thrilled to begin the construction documents and permitting process for the new Aptos Branch Library,” Nemitz said. “The project will allow us to expand services for children and adults and add collaborative teen space, community programming rooms, quiet study and outdoor reading areas. The building will serve as a vibrant community learning center for years to come.”

Taking out the existing library opens a window to develop a facility that is not only larger but also allows for a more efficient layout. Nemitz said that renovation of the existing building, plus an addition to accommodate the library's programs, would be more expensive than the planned teardown and rebuild.

Santa Cruz County currently has a design-build contract for both the architect and contractor for \$12.35 million, Nemitz said. Funding for the project comes from Measure S, County Library Funds, and The Leonard Trust.

Plans for the new library also include a teen space, maker space, group study areas, an outdoor program, community terrace, teen's patio, adult's reading room, children's garden and staff garden.

Efforts to align with green building standards will include solar panels and an operational helix windmill, among other features, that contribute to zero net energy, Nemitz said.

While the current library has 69 parking spaces, plans call to add four new proposed spots to the list including ADA spots. The entire parking lot will be repaired and slurry sealed. All-new striping will reflect the revised parking layout. Charging stations for electric vehicles are also in the works.

Aptos residents will be able to get library service during construction at the La Selva Beach and Capitola Branches starting in March, well before tear down. "It's going to be so beautiful," Nemitz said. "The community has been so involved and has been generously donating."

Good Times Opinion: Nov. 4, 2020 Plus letters to the editor

ONLINE COMMENTS

Re: Housing Crisis Solutions

I am shocked at how you have diminished and insulted the legitimacy of Don't Bury The Library, an organized campaign of hundreds of residents who have worked tirelessly for almost four years to have the downtown branch restored, renewed, upgraded and modernized—which is what voters were led to believe would happen if they voted yes on the ballot measure.

First, as though to belittle our organization, you refer to us as a "club." Then you diminish our legitimate, multiple concerns about the misuse of Measure S funds approved by voters, by saying our primary concern is that we love the library where it is. Yes, we want the library where a library has been for 116 years, an integral part of the City's Civic Center. We also want transparency in government and that did not happen with the behind close doors plans for a parking garage and library package obviously made as soon as the June 2016 votes had been counted. Maybe even sooner.

— Jean Brocklebank



Includes Aptos Times and Capitola-Soquel Times Aptos Times

Virtual Open House for New Aptos Branch Library

written by [Michael Oppenheimer](#) September 23, 2020



Open House Moved to Oct. 5

Architect Mark Schoeman of Anderson Brule will host a virtual open house 5:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 5, for the new Aptos Branch Library. You can join in for as long (or little) as you like.

The discussions will focus on site and architecture and interior layout. There will be different discussion groups with hosts facilitating, and respectful behavior is expected.

Library branch director Heather Pereira said the design includes outdoor patios. She said she would especially like to hear from teens.

The builder will be Bogard Construction of Santa Cruz.

Pereira said she was pleased with the design-build process being used, describing it as collaborative with “many opportunities to get feedback.”

Tentative start date is spring/summer 2021, subject to change, depending on COVID-19 restrictions.

Teen Volunteer to Career Expo is Sept. 30

written by [Michael Oppenheimer](#) September 26, 2020



The Santa Cruz Public Libraries and Your Future is Our Business have partnered with community organizations to offer a virtual volunteer expo for teens age 13 to 19 at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30, on Zoom.

Register at <https://santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/7071215> .

The Teen Volunteer to Career Expo is designed to empower teens with community service opportunities. Local leaders will share real-life stories of how volunteering can connect, inspire, and inform your future career path. There will be breakout rooms where community organizations will exhibit their volunteer opportunities and work-based learning experiences.

Speakers who were previously teenage volunteers include:

- Gabriel Medina, senior program coordinator at Digital NEST Watsonville Campus
- Carissa Lemos, interim principal at Santa Cruz Gardens Elementary School
- Laurel Maxwell, guest services manager, Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History

Community organizations with exhibitor breakout rooms include: Career Technical Education Program, Digital NEST, Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County, YouthServe, Santa Cruz Volunteer Center, Volunteer Advisory Council of Teens, Santa Cruz Public Libraries and Boys & Girls Club of Santa Cruz County.

The main room features a live demonstration and Q&A of Santa Cruz Public Libraries online services including free online tutoring and research assistance.

New Aptos Library Design Impresses

written by [See Below](#) October 15, 2020 Aptos Times



By Jondi Gumz

The design of the new Aptos library —mindful of the community's heritage in lumber, fishing and apples, got positive reviews from people who attended a virtual open house last week.

One side of the new Aptos library design, showing the patio for the community room.



“We are so impressed,” said John Hibble of the Aptos Chamber of Commerce. “We can’t wait.” The new library at the same location, 7695 Soquel Drive, will be 50 percent bigger — 12,400 square feet instead of 8,000 square feet.

Architect Mark Schoeman of Anderson-Brulé Architects said the tall glass windows surrounded by wood 22-23 feet high would create an iconic corner. The building will be shorter in the back and 20 feet from the residential neighbors, gated for security, Schoeman said.



The iconic corner at Soquel Drive and Ledyard Way for the new Aptos library branch.

To take advantage of the sun., the building will be angled on the property, which intersects with Ledyard Way. Solar panels on the rear roof will produce all the energy needed on site, but won't be seen from the street, Schoeman said.

Architect Angshupriya Pathak pointed out how the driveway will be relocated away from the bus stop to protect people on foot.

There will be more parking spaces, 73, up from 69 now, with electric vehicle charging and a book off drop-off in the parking lot. Inside, visitors will be greeted by library staff.

"I really like the staff space," said librarian Heather Pereira.



The new driveway for the Aptos library is designed to avoid conflicts with the bus stop and people on foot or using wheelchairs.

The building is divided into quadrants. The children's section with the storytime corner will be on the left and the community room with a patio that can be opened for events will be on the right. "There is a view of the ocean when you step outside on the patio," Pereira said.

The adult section is behind the children's section and teen area with a maker space is behind the community room.

Each area will open onto a garden patio. "I love the separate gardens," one viewer said. Pamela Anderson-Brulé, founder and president of Anderson-Brulé, said her goal was to create a warm and welcoming space, foster human connection and celebrate natural resources from the forest to the ocean. Thus, the ceiling has wood beams and the color scheme includes greens, blues and earth tones.

"We tried to pick colors different from the other libraries," said Susan Nemitz, who heads the Santa Cruz Public Libraries system, which is undertaking revamps at branches around the county with \$67 million bond voters approved in 2016.

It was suggested the teen furniture be easy to move to accommodate various groupings. Duly noted, Anderson-Brulé said, adding that the furniture hasn't been selected yet.

Hibble, who started the Aptos History Museum, said he's excited about being able to display artifacts at the new library.

Library staff with concerns about cleanup of kids' projects asked about alternatives to carpet, which was chosen for acoustical reasons.

Nemitz said one solution may be to put carpet in the book stacks.

santacruzpl.org

Images by Anderson-Brulé Architects



COMMUNITY NEWS

Bigger Bookstore at Capitola Mall

The Friends of the Capitola Library Bookstore is now open in the Capitola Mall, 1855 41st Ave., Capitola, a new location next to The Hallmark Store.

It's much larger, so there is more room for books, and more room to spread out for socially distanced shopping in this time of COVID-19.

Hours will be Saturdays and Sundays from 12 to 4 p.m. with more days coming soon.

As Dinah Phillips posted on Facebook: "Lots and lots of amazing books at amazing prices, friendly people helping you, and popcorn! What's not to love?!" ■



Photo Credit: Jondi Gumz

A shopper at Capitola Mall checks the window at the new Friends of the Capitola Branch Library Bookstore.

Scotts Valley Times November 2020

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Construction Suspends Library Curbside Service Til Nov. 9

Construction on the roof at the Scotts Valley Branch Library that started Oct. 16 means services are suspended until the work is complete, likely Monday, Nov. 9.



All the books and materials on hold for you at the Scotts Valley Library will be at the Felton Branch for pickup while Scotts Valley is closed. Any books and materials on hold not picked up at the Felton Branch will be returned to the Scotts Valley Branch after the construction is complete.

The book drop at the Scotts Valley Branch will remain closed during the construction period. Returns will be accepted at the Felton Branch during curbside service hours.

Due dates for things checked out from the Scotts Valley Branch and the amount of time your materials are kept on hold will be extended 10 days.

For information, call 831-427-7713.

...

REGISTER-PAJARONIAN



The Aptos Branch Library is slated for demolition and replacement in 2021. — Tarmo Hannula/The Pajaronian

Aptos Library slated for demolition, rebuild

By: [TARMO HANNULA](#) October 26, 2020

APTOS—Plans are moving forward with the Aptos Branch Library project to raze the existing 8,000-square-foot building near the corner of State Park and Soquel drives, and build a 12,400-square-foot replacement.

While the wrecking ball is not expected to swing loose until next summer, strides have been made in the planning phase, which drew strong input and fundraising from the community, said Susan M. Nemitz, director of Santa Cruz Public Libraries.

“After a year-long community design process, the Santa Cruz Public Libraries are thrilled to begin the construction documents and permitting process for the new Aptos Branch Library,” Nemitz said. “The project will allow us to expand services for children and adults and add collaborative teens space, community programming rooms, quiet study and outdoor reading areas. The building will serve as a vibrant community learning center for years to come.”

Demolishing the existing library will allow Santa Cruz Public Libraries to develop a facility that is not only larger but that also features a more efficient layout, Nemitz said. Nemitz also said that the teardown and rebuild would be less expensive than renovating the existing building and adding to it.

Santa Cruz County currently has a \$12.3 million design-build contract for both the architect and contractor, Nemitz said. Funding for the project comes from Measure S, County Library Funds and The Leonard Trust.

Plans for the new library also include: Teen Space, Maker Space, Group Study areas, Outdoor Program, Community Terrace, Teen’s Patio, Adult’s Reading Room, Children’s Garden and Staff Garden.

Efforts to align with green building standards will include solar panels and a helix windmill, among other features, that will make it a zero net energy building, Nemitz said.

While the library currently has 69 parking spaces, plans call to add four new proposed spots to the list including an ADA space. The entire parking lot will be repaired and slurry sealed. Charging stations for electric vehicles are also in the works.

Library services will be available to Aptos residents during construction at the La Selva Beach and Capitola Branches starting in March, well before tear down.

"It's going to be so beautiful," Nemitz said. "The community has been so involved and has been generously donating."



The library/parking garage project is a litmus test for the future of Santa Cruz
by Erica Aitken ([reImagineSantaCruz\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:reImagineSantaCruz[at]gmail.com)) Monday Sep 21st, 2020 1:42 PM
<https://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2020/09/21/18836813.php>

The Santa Cruz City Council, paired with City Manager Martin Bernal, are passing construction projects that nobody needs and under false pretenses. How we vote in November will determine the future of our town.



The next City Council elections will decide the future of Santa Cruz. Do we open our doors to Silicon Valley with luxury rentals and our very own Santana Row? Or do we take control and build beautiful affordable housing for those who work and would like to live here? If we ask ourselves this question, it is because we have recently been the victims of a particularly galling breach of trust from our current City Councilmembers who voted 4 – 2 to replace our current library with a multi-purpose, six-story parking garage flanked by a new library, right where our farmer's market stands.

The advocates of this project used Measure S, passed in 2016, to morph what was a mandate to upgrade and fix our libraries, into a monstrous block of concrete that would never have been approved by the voters. Even though the Nelson/Nygaard study advised against the garage, the City Council voted for it, ignoring the advice of the study they themselves had commissioned. And we don't need additional parking spaces. Downtown parking is not only underused but we, as environmentally concerned citizens, want to reduce our dependence on cars.

This project should never have been approved without our support and knowledge. In fact, when we were finally allowed to voice our opinion, on the day of the vote, a large majority voiced opposition to the project, to such an extent that Councilmember Sandy Brown reversed her previous decision and voted against the project while Mayor Cummings and Councilmembers Watkins, Meyers and Golder voted in favor.

This parking/library project is a litmus test. It tests our confidence in the integrity of our councilmembers. We are at a crossroads, having to choose between extensive high end development, high rises, luxury buildings for the wealthy, becoming a beachfront satellite for Silicon Valley. Or, we develop our city for the benefit of existing residents, with affordable housing for all incomes, with common social spaces like the farmers market, and safer roads for cyclists and pedestrians. These are our two choices and who we elect to City Council in November will seal our future.

How to differentiate between candidates is a challenge. After all, they say the same thing. They are for affordable housing, for fixing climate change, for economic recovery and racial equality. They might as well say that they are for world peace and the end of hunger, catch phrases that present the bland and positive image of most candidates. Traditionally, we are guided by who endorses them, choosing the candidates that our favorite organizations recommend.

Not this year. This year, I won't let anyone make my decision for me. Because, no matter where we stand on any given issue, the one we all agree on is the need to be able to count on an honest, transparent City Council, where there aren't secret deals being made, a Council who places us above business and who listens when we talk.

Can you trust your City Council today?

There are four seats to fill next November. Of all of the questions put in front of the candidates, which they all answer in a similar way, only one stands out: Do they approve of the library/parking garage project? Their position on this issue tells me what role they are ready to play as city councilmembers, and how I should vote for a transparent and honest City Council. I will vote for the only four who oppose the project and who will fight it when they are elected. These are incumbent Sandy Brown, and Kayla Kumar, Kelsey Hill and Alicia Kuhl. The others are in favor of the project and do not question how it was passed.

Let City Council know that builders and developers with their vision of a shiny Silicon Valley extension are not their priority. We are.

<http://www.relmagineSantaCruz.com>

There are Many Reasons to Oppose the Library/Garage/Housing Project in Downtown Santa Cruz by Santa Cruz News, *Wednesday Oct 14th, 2020 5:56 PM*

Rick Longinotti of the Campaign for Sustainable Transportation has written a rebuttal to former Mayor of Santa Cruz Don Lane's blog post in support of the proposed six-story library/garage/housing project. Read Longinotti's full response below.



Response to Don Lane re Library/Garage/Housing

There are many reasons to oppose the library/garage/housing project.

Affordable housing:

*A city-owned lot the size of the Farmers Market lot should fit over 200 units of affordable housing, not a mere 50. The space planned for parking 400 cars would crowd out space for affordable housing. (To give an idea of the space required, the Soquel/Front St. garage contains 400 parking spaces).

* The sad irony is that the Downtown does not need 400 new parking spaces, according to a consensus of consultants who advised the City on parking.

[See: <https://campaignforsustainabletransportation.org/better-solutions/>]

Janis Rhodes (J.R. Parking Associates) told the City that new parking garages will never pay for themselves. The only way this garage would be financially viable is for it to be subsidized with revenue from other parking garages and meters Downtown. Even this strategy is no longer viable, since the City's financing model did not include the prospect of an economic recession. According to the City's consultant, Economic and Planning Systems, "It should be noted, however, that the model does not evaluate a worst-case scenario (for parking revenues) where

a major recession occurs or a technological change (and pricing) substantially reduces parking demand."

Patrick Siegman, when at Nelson\Nygaard, modeled future parking demand and concluded that a new garage was not needed. He is the consultant whose work the City staff misrepresented in presentations to the Downtown Commission and City Council. See my article An Honest Consultant [See: <https://campaignforsustainabletransportation.org/let-the-voters-decide/an-honest-consultant/>]

UCSC Professor and parking researcher Adam Millard-Ball advised the City Council that it would be cheaper to pay working commuters not to park Downtown than to build a new garage.

City staff have failed to bring the completed Nelson\Nygaard Downtown Parking Strategic Plan to the City Council. The Strategic Plan does not recommend a garage. It states, "The most fiscally prudent approach to accommodating additional demand: Modernize parking management" [See: <https://campaignforsustainabletransportation.org/better-solutions/>]

* It's not accurate that spending on the garage would not impact the City's General Fund. The City is legally able to put parking revenue into the General Fund. This was confirmed by the City Attorney At this time of fiscal crisis, building a garage would come at the expense of City workers and services.

* If/when we see economic recovery Downtown, parking revenue saved from not building a garage could be used to leverage state and federal funds for affordable housing. City staff estimate the debt on the garage as costing \$2.9 million per year—for 30 years. Compare that potential resource to the \$3 million in the City's Housing Trust Fund.

* It is not accurate that future affordable housing projects need a new garage in order to avoid having to build parking on site. There are approximately 1500 empty parking spaces in City garages overnight that can accommodate Downtown residents with a parking permit. We don't need another 400 spaces. [See: <https://campaignforsustainabletransportation.org/using-parking-revenue-to-support-the-library-affordable-housing/>]

* By offering the Farmers Market a permanent location on City parking lot #7 on Front St., the City loses the opportunity to build 200 units of affordable housing on that site. A net gain of 150 affordable units can be had by giving the Farmers Market permanence at its existing location.

Environment:

* Construction with concrete results in large emissions of carbon dioxide. If the cement industry were a country, it would be the third largest emitter in the world after China and the USA.

* The need to pay a 30 year debt on the garage means the City will need more people to drive Downtown and pay for parking. The City program of METRO bus passes and JUMP Bike credit for all workers Downtown could be cut back or eliminated. The universal bus pass program was approved by a narrow 4-3 majority of the Council in 2019, with the Council members who support a garage voting no.

* Spending City revenue on a garage instead of affordable housing for the Downtown workforce misses the opportunity to for those workers to be able to walk to work.

Downtown vitality:

* Locating a parking garage at that site draws traffic to the Downtown core, diminishing walkability. The driveways and dead space of a parking structure discourage walking.

* Public non-commercial common space is key to the vitality of any city. Moving the Farmers Market to Front St. is exactly what the Downtown Plan said not to do: "Open spaces within downtown Santa Cruz should have value and meaning; they should be carefully located where people want to be and in locations that take advantage of the unique resources, heritage, and traditions of the community. They should not be contrived or created from 'leftover' space"

* When the Downtown Parking District is short on revenue to pay the debt service, the City will have to raise parking rates or fees on businesses. Downtown businesses aren't fond of either strategy.

In closing, I suggest that the City has not learned from its experience with promoting the desalination plant. Why does a group of citizens need to resort to a ballot initiative in order to be able to have a seat at the table of dialogue that resulted in unanimous approval of alternatives to desalination? Why doesn't the City engage in a process with citizens who oppose the parking structure? Surely a "public process" in which the Nelson\Nygaard report costing the City \$100,000 is suppressed, doesn't qualify as a democratic process.

-Rick Longinotti

More information:

Campaign for Sustainable Transportation

<https://campaignforsustainabletransportation.org/>

Library/Parking Garage Is Litmus Test for the Future of Santa Cruz

City Council and City Manager Advancing Construction Projects Under False Pretenses

Thu Oct 15 2020 (Updated 10/16/20)



Erica Aitken of Reimagine

Santa Cruz writes: The next City Council elections will decide the future of Santa Cruz. Do we open our doors to Silicon Valley with luxury rentals and our very own Santana Row? Or do we take control and build beautiful affordable housing for those who work and would like to live here? If we ask ourselves this question, it is because we have recently been the victims of a particularly galling breach of trust from our current City Councilmembers who voted 4

– 2 to replace our current library with a multi-purpose, six-story parking garage flanked by a new library, right where our farmer's market stands.

The advocates of this project used Measure S, passed in 2016, to morph what was a mandate to upgrade and fix our libraries, into a monstrous block of concrete that would never have been approved by the voters. Even though the Nelson/Nygaard study advised against the garage, the City Council voted for it, ignoring the advice of the study they themselves had commissioned. And we don't need additional parking spaces. Downtown parking is not only underused but we, as environmentally concerned citizens, want to reduce our dependence on cars.

Library, Parking, Housing – and Rubbish - [Don Lane Blog](https://www.donlane.org/post/library-parking-housing-and-rubbish)

<https://www.donlane.org/post/library-parking-housing-and-rubbish>



Knowing the persistence of the venerable opponents of the project, I know this post will not be the final word in our community's back and forth on the Library/Housing/Parking project downtown. However, I do have at least a few more words to share. (especially now that I hit a nerve with my last post on this topic and triggered quite a response from a key project opponent - you can find that post [here](#))

The folks opposing the project put a lot words into their conceptual support for affordable housing. What strikes me as missing in their story is the following historical point:

City Councilmembers that were not in support of the current version of the library project were in the majority on the city council for more than a year. During that period, they had an opportunity, using the full resources of our city government and having the support of well-organized advocacy groups, to shape an alternative proposal that excluded parking and created more affordable housing. They never utilized that opportunity.

I don't doubt that these folks recognize the need for affordable housing and their wish for more of it—I do doubt the seriousness of their commitment to make it actually happen.

Affordable housing doesn't happen because some elected officials and some anti-parking advocates say they think it's important. It happens through planning and serious, persistent work. The folks who have advocated for this project **since housing became an integral part of it** have done that work.

I think some opponents of the project are being somewhat disingenuous when they say they want more time and more community engagement on this. They've had a lot of time to create an alternative housing plan and they have simply failed to do so. I have personally participated in several official city forums on this project and I have sat in these meetings right next to people who made full presentations to make their case for an alternative approach. They were heard many times by many city officials and the community. To say that we need a brand-new process at this point is simply a nice-sounding way of killing a project.

At this point, having failed to create a serious alternative plan, they seem to be saying that we should wait long enough on this decision so that the only choice we have is to remodel the old library – even though the vast majority of library people (local professionals and the Friends of the Library) are clear that a new library would be much superior to a remodel (for the same amount of money!) Did you know that Capitola and Felton are building brand-new libraries with Measure

S Library Bond money right now? (New – not remodels.) The other branches are all meeting the upcoming deadline for spending these library construction funds, while Santa Cruz city draws perilously close to losing our chance to build a great new downtown library (and central hub for the whole system) with these funds.

On a totally different point... the various projects that are moving forward downtown right now will cause a loss of about 365 parking places. Does it really seem outlandish to include 400 spaces to replace those... especially when we are looking to add perhaps 150 or 200 more apartments downtown that won't have to include on-site parking?

Yes, there are times when there is excess parking downtown and some of this can be used for new downtown residents. But much of this parking is several blocks away from the new housing projects. Probably not realistic or practical for the families and seniors that will live there. So we do want to have a modest amount of parking near new apartments even if we don't build a parking space for every new apartment. (Of course, we could only allow the lower income folks living in these apartments to have to have super-inconvenient parking several blocks from their home. But that hardly seem "progressive" or equitable.)

What about climate impacts and other environmental values? I think this question is deeply important for our community. It's worthy of careful examination. It's certainly reasonable to argue for the climate benefits of fewer parking spaces. It is equally reasonable to value to the climate benefits of building more homes adjacent to where people work and can live much of their lives with less car use. I'm not aware of any formal studies of the climate impact that would support either position when it comes to this project. Given the absence of real data on this, it is somewhat surprising that project opponents have so much certainty on the climate impacts of the project. (This seems particularly relevant since -as noted before - there will be a net parking space increase of only about 35 spaces rather than the 400 that opponents talk about so much. They are very good at addition but seem to have missed their subtraction lesson 😊)

We need only look to this national Sierra Club policy statement to see why a project like this makes a lot of sense in terms of the environment:

*How we build cities and towns has a profound effect on the causes and impacts of climate change. An essential strategy for reducing urban related carbon emissions is supporting dense, mixed-use communities and land uses that prioritize walking, biking or transit to meet daily transportation needs, as well as **balancing jobs and housing within the region**. **If we make communities not only dense, but inclusive, then fewer people will have to drive till they qualify for housing financing, saving even more emissions.** The benefits of sustainable development, also known as smart growth, include saving money for people, governments and businesses, improving public health, enhancing the quality of life, **reducing carbon emissions and other pollution, and leaving more pastoral and natural lands in place.***

(As a 40-year Sierra Club member, I want to be clear that the local chapter of the Sierra Club is an opponent of this project. Obviously, I don't agree with their position on this... and I wish the local chapter would be more focused on "smart growth" principles embraced by the national Sierra Club.)

Lastly, you can really see some of the worst of the opponents' political word games at work when you consider this: many opponents are advocating for saving this farmers' market parking lot and trees with a "commons" plan (a very nice park and plaza) in one argument and then, later, other opposition team members casually offer up the same site for a library/housing project without

parking spaces in it. The trees would have to go in that second version. Are the trees sacrosanct except when they're not? Less double-talk would be helpful to improve our discourse.

And, of course, there's the political game of suggesting *conspiratorial evil* behind those you disagree with. You'll find at the center of much of the argument against the project that there is a consulting report on downtown parking by consultant Patrick Siegman. To hear the opponents tell it, Siegman and his report have pretty much been locked in a dungeon beneath city hall and the secret information in the report is lost. What's curious about the opponents claim on this is that so much information about Siegman's work has been shown to the community and the City Council. **Here's a fun fact: Siegman made a full presentation to the City Council on all of this on March 19, 2019** (Here's [a link to that city council meeting](#).) And there was plenty of media coverage of the Siegman controversy. Here's one example <https://goodtimes.sc/santa-cruz-news/news/600-downtown-parking-spaces-new-questions/>. Anyways...This is perhaps the least secret "suppressed" report in the history of Santa Cruz. Some might call the opponents claims of suppression of Siegman's work "audacious." I think it's something worse. (see my "final word" below...)

In the end, my main point is that the opponents of this project are trying to sell the community on how outrageous this project is when, clearly, it is a reasonable approach that is in sync with many of the equity and environmental values of our community (and does nothing to remove our beloved farmers' market from downtown). There are some reasonable arguments against the project but too many of the arguments fit within the definition of my final word on the subject (and one of my personal favorite words in general):

RUBBISH.



SANTA CRUZ LOCAL
sound local news

Downtown Santa Cruz library project consultant contract delayed
by *Matthew Renda* SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

A new library, parking garage and homes are slated for a parking lot at Cathcart and Cedar streets in Santa Cruz. Tuesday, the Santa Cruz City Council delayed a decision on a project manager. (Stephen Baxter — Santa Cruz Local file)

SANTA CRUZ >> The Santa Cruz City Council on Tuesday delayed a vote on a \$240,000 contract for consulting services for the downtown library project after some residents asked the council to rein in the project.

The Mixed Use Downtown Library Project calls for the construction of [a ground floor library with a minimum of 50 affordable housing units](#) on top and a parking lot with no more than 400 spaces.

Some residents oppose the project because they see additional parking as car-centric infrastructure inappropriate in an era of increasing greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

“The city’s model is not worth much right now,” said Rick Longinotti, a vocal critic. He referred to an economic model that showed the city would earn significant income from paid parking at the project location near Cathcart, Cedar and Lincoln Streets.

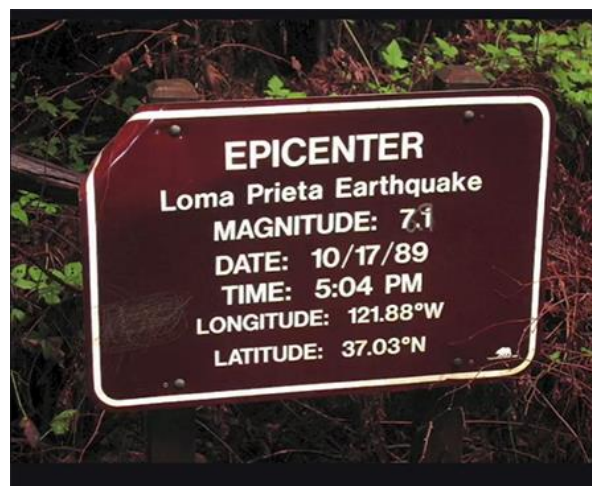
Longinotti and some other residents who spoke at the online city council meeting said the coming financial stressors from the pandemic and city budget shortfalls from tourist declines mean the project should be fully reconsidered.



NEWSCENTER

University Library to launch new documentary podcast series about Loma Prieta earthquake

October 08, 2020 By [Scott Rappaport](#)





Stopped at 5:04 p.m., the exact time of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, the town clock in downtown Santa Cruz became a symbol of that moment in local history. (Photo: Vester Dick). The University Library at UC Santa Cruz will present a special online event on October 16 to celebrate the launch of *Stories from the Epicenter*—a new 10-part documentary podcast series about the Loma Prieta Earthquake in Santa Cruz County.

The podcasts capture the experience and memory of the destructive quake, which leveled downtown Santa Cruz and Watsonville on October 17, 1989, telling the story through oral history records and interviews with current residents of Santa Cruz and Watsonville.

They were produced by the University Library, in partnership with the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, and Santa Cruz Public Libraries.

Moderated by Kristy Golubiewski-Davis, director of the Library's Digital Scholarship Department, the launch event will include a discussion with the podcast producers, as well as clips from the podcast series, and a Q&A with the audience.

The free public online launch event takes place on October 16 at 5:30 p.m. [Register here to attend](#).

The 10 episodes of *Stories from the Epicenter* will be available to stream on October 17, the 31st anniversary of the earthquake:

Episodes

1. Pacific Garden Mall
2. The First Thirty Days
3. The Politics of Rebuilding
4. Watsonville
5. UCSC

6. The Kids Are Alright
7. A Tale of Two Newspapers
8. The Memory Remains
9. Rebels with Rubble
10. 10. Epicenter

For more information, visit: library.ucsc.edu/StoriesFromTheEpicenter



Santa Cruz News

Date

10/28/2020

ArticleType

Chamber

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELL DONE - Downtown Mixed-Use Library Project Moves Forward

On behalf of the Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce, we send our heartfelt congratulations to Mayor Justin Cummings, Vice Mayor Donna Meyers, and Councilmembers Renee Golder and Martine Watkins for their positive votes.

On Tuesday evening at approximately 8:30 pm, the Santa Cruz City Council voted 4-2 to approve (again), the Downtown Mixed Use Library Project and the Owner's Contract — a contract of \$240,000 with Griffin Structures Inc. for Phase 1 of the project.

The Mixed-Use Downtown Library Project is an inspirational visionary project that will bring together three critical components for the downtown consolidating a surface-level parking lot to develop housing, a much needed shared parking facility, and a 21st Century Library built by this generation for the next generation. This is a win-win-win for our community.

This project will be a game-changer for downtown Santa Cruz. What does this mean for the city and the county-wide library system? Par for the course with our City Council is the add-ons that were not a part of the initial recommendation from the subcommittee but came through the council's deliberative approach which included several requirements:

- City leaders approved the most housing affordability.
- The building height will not exceed the five-story adjacent University Town Center, or if that is not possible then the height should not exceed the six-story apartments at 1010 Pacific Avenue.
- This project's affordable housing and the housing at the planned Pacific Station project at the downtown Metro station will be the priorities of the city's affordable housing trust fund.
- To the extent feasible, downtown employees would be given preference for affordable housing units.

Four years ago, in June 2016, the voters stated loudly that they supported a modernized county-

wide library system where each community would design and develop a library that meets the specific needs of their community. The central hub of the system was and is the downtown library.

The 4-2 vote by this City Council was the right decision for our city's future. Through persistence, patience and principled reasoned arguments in support of this project, a broad coalition of supporters stood tall throughout the lengthy planning process. It should never take over four years to get a project moving forward that has board support but that is the nature of prolonged community engagement in Santa Cruz. There are too many folks to list all of them here, but it should be noted that a hardy crew of dedicated community leaders spoke out in support of this project on Tuesday evening representing these organizations:

- + Democratic Women's Club: Mike Rotkin
- + Santa Cruz County Chamber: Casey Beyer
- + Santa Cruz Business Council: Robert Singleton
- + DLAC, Downtown Library Advisory Committee: Yolanda Henry
- + Santa Cruz Public Library Advisory Commission: Rena Dubin
- + Downtown Management Corporation: Zach Davis
- + Eden Housing: Jane Barr
- + City of Santa Cruz Downtown Commission: Matt Farrell
- + Downtown Forward: Mark Mesiti-Miller
- + Friends of the Library: Martin Gomez and Vivian Rogers
- + Affordable Housing Now: Tim Willoughby

Again, we want to commend our Santa Cruz City Council and the city staff, City Manager Martin Bernal, Economic Development Director Bonnie Lipscomb, Principal Management Analyst Amanda Rotella, Current Planning Principal Planner Samantha Haschert, Public Works Director Mark Dettle, Transportation Manager James Burr, Library Director Susan Nemitz, Planning Director Lee Butler, Parking Program Manager Brian Borguno, and Transportation Planner Claire Gallogly who diligently worked throughout this lengthy process to move the project forward.

Date	ArticleType
9/30/2020	Chamber
Housing Affordability and a Downtown Library Project	

A Call To Action

Three decades ago, I had the privilege of working with US Congressman Tom Campbell for over a decade (1988-2000). It was one of the most challenging and rewarding jobs of my career. As a director of his office, I learned how the federal government works from the inside. It sometimes is messy, bureaucratic, and in three words —a slow churning machine. However, good government only works when the right people take charge and lead.

After the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake destroyed hundreds of homes in Santa Cruz County and throughout the Bay Area, housing became our primary constituent issue. Helping people rebuild their destroyed homes while at the same time assisting in finding temporary housing for many of them. Sound familiar? Exactly, what we face today.

In early 1990, Congressman Campbell invited Jack Kemp, the Secretary of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) to come to his congressional district to discuss federal housing policy

and how HUD could help. Kemp toured several communities in the district from East Palo Alto and Los Gatos, to the Summit area of Santa Cruz/Santa Clara Counties, and down into the City of Santa Cruz as well. Kemp listened to each communities' concern and took those ideas back to Washington DC with a plan. All you need to know about Jack Kemp was that he was a grinder of a professional football player having spent 13 years playing quarterback in the National Football League (NFL) before beginning his political career. Jack Kemp never gives up and never wavers from an issue. To get a perspective on how Kemp operated, take a quick read of this article by Timothy L. Coyle: <https://www.foxandhoundsdaily.com/2020/09/when-it-comes-to-housing-jack-kemp-had-good-ideas/>

What does Mr. Coyle know about Jack Kemp and housing? Coyle was a special assistant to Secretary Kemp back in the 1990s and was the point of contact for us during the Secretary's visit. In Coyle's own words, "Kemp cared about market-rate, middle-class housing as much as he did about the multifamily kind, as well. While at HUD, he gathered experts from around the country to investigate regulations — federal, state and local — affecting affordable housing production. He then published a guide featuring the barriers found by this group along with their many recommendations for reform. Those findings and life-long remedies can be found in what's known as The Kemp Commission report."

"If California legislators and local government leaders are truly interested in fixing the our housing problems would be well-advised to read the report [known officially as the report of the federal Advisory Commission on Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing]," concluded Coyle.

The report points out: "For example, one of the most widespread and serious regulatory barriers to housing affordability consists of local zoning codes that exclude almost all moderate or high-density housing developments, including most multifamily housing. The commission's recognition that such zoning raises housing costs certainly did not mean the commission was opposed to all zoning per se, as some of its critics have inferred. On the contrary, the commission believed that zoning codes can and do serve legitimate purposes and should be part of every local government's regulations. But such codes sometimes have the effect—whether intentional or accidental—of raising housing costs substantially beyond the levels that the commission believed were morally defensible from the viewpoint of society as a whole."

Having worked in the home building industry myself for several years (2005-2009), we followed a strict timeline to get projects built from entitlement to production and to the market. We developed projects for both market rate and affordable housing rates. Timing is an essential factor that can be beneficial or detrimental to your project. The regulatory process could add anywhere from 25-40% of the overall cost of a project.

The Advisory Commission on Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing lists 17 items where regulatory environment adds to the cost of housing development. You can find the list on page 1102 of the report.

Why make all the fuss about a 1990 housing report? Well, in simple terms we haven't taken the opportunity to dust off the pages of that document to respond to our housing crisis. In 2017, the Chamber led a group of community leaders to seven bay area cities on how each community addressed their housing needs. This sparked action in Santa Cruz. With all good intentions regarding the subject of housing, former Mayor Cynthia Chase led the charge to

produce a wonderfully detailed 47-page report and added some 90 recommendations. You can read it here: [Santa Cruz Voices on Housing](#). That listening tour included a large public engagement process. You would have thought the inertia to move on housing would produce the level of housing projects we need using that blueprint document as guide. However, Santa Cruz is wrapped up in obligatory public engagement meetings, debating every detail of every project and insisting on more layers of regulations that slow, delay and at times eliminate a project completely.

Now comes the kicker: In 2017, following the [Santa Cruz Voices on Housing](#) report, the City Council created a Council subcommittee to assess and prioritize housing recommendations identified by the community. They were based around specific housing policy changes to help address the housing crisis. Specific recommendations prioritized by the subcommittee related to the downtown include the following:

- > Identify City-owned parcels that could be used for housing development with particular attention to City parking lots
- > Focus resources and staff to encourage construction or approval of units Downtown with a specific focus on enabling projects in the current development pipeline to break ground
- > Update the downtown parking resolution to modify parking standards for residential development including in-lieu fee ratios and allowances for off-site parking to increase affordability and efficiency of land

Where does this leave the City of Santa Cruz? It requires moving projects through the development pipeline as quickly and efficiently as possible complying with the regulatory process. One such project, the Downtown Mixed-Use Library Project sits on the edge with a ticking timeline to utilize the bond funds that the voters approved in 2016. The project had received approval by city council in December 2018, which seemed ready to move forward the following January. On June 24, 2020, after a two year delay, the Council again re-approved the project. Read more about the action here: <https://web.santacruzchamber.org/news/newsarticledisplay.aspx?ArticleID=1863>.

Here we are three years later; the community has failed to build an affordable housing project and a downtown library. It is not for the lack of trying by the city staff and the housing community. The fundamental flaw lies at feet of the vocal NIMBY minority who shout from their roof tops, at city council meetings and now zoom recorded meetings asking the same questions and pointing to the same issues that have been discussed and addressed by city staff.

On October 11, the City Council will once again take up the item related to the Owner's Representative Contract for the Downtown Mixed-Use Library Project. On September 22 this was the result on the item to Award a Contract for Owner's Representative Contract to Griffin Structure.

Motion carried to:

- > Continue this item to the first meeting in October, but no later than the second meeting of October, and
- > Direct staff to provide in the report general broad-based financial information on costs and available funding for both affordable housing and parking components of this project, a copy of the proposed contract, information on potential developers of affordable housing, and links to relevant information on the library project.

There will be question upon question that will be asked again on the merits of this contract, and substantial staff and consultant time to respond to those in our community who do not favor some aspect of the project. That is the nature of a messy, bureaucratic and a slow churning machine. Here, we wait for the Downtown Library and an Affordable Housing Project that sits on the edge of father time with bond funds laying in the balance. Let's hope that good government prevails, and leaders step up.

Santa Cruz Sentinel News

Santa Cruz considers contracting out downtown mixed-use library oversight

Meanwhile, Aptos branch library renovation design-build contract awarded

By [JESSICA A. YORK](#) | jyork@santacruzsentinel.com | Santa Cruz Sentinel

PUBLISHED: September 21, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. | UPDATED: September 22, 2020 at 3:38 p.m.

SANTA CRUZ — The Santa Cruz City Council is set Tuesday to take its first step forward after conceptually approving construction of a new downtown mixed-use library project in June.

In a “consent agenda” item that may be approved among several items if not pulled for discussion, the council will be asked to green-light the hiring of a contractor to manage the project for the city.

To date, the development is set as a single-story library beneath multiple floors of housing and adjacent to a multi-story parking garage on top of what is now a city-owned parking lot bounded by Cedar, Lincoln and Cathcart streets. The development would include \$27 million in funding for the 2016's voter-approved Measure S library facilities bond for the library portion and city Economic Development Trust Fund, Affordable Housing Trust Fund and Parking District dollars for the remainder. Once completed, the existing Church Street downtown library facility — which serves as the 10-branch Santa Cruz Public Library system's flagship — would relocate into the new building.

At its June 23 meeting, the [council approved a project concept](#), with future votes of approval needed for project design, environmental review and contractor hiring.

Tuesday's \$240,000 agreement with Santa Clara-based Griffin Structures sets the stage for launching a competitive bidding process to hire a development team. The contractor will be in charge of managing the project's budget and schedule and be tasked with “representing the city's interest and goals throughout the project.” As proposed, the contract with Griffin would be split into two phases, the first a 23-month process including pre-design, design and permitting. The second phase would require future council approval and include construction through December 2024.

Separately, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors has approved a contract with Bogard Construction and Anderson Brule Architects to renovate its Aptos branch library, with \$14 million in Measure S money set aside for the effort. Santa Cruz-based Bogard Construction is performing a similar function for the underway ground-up construction of the new Capitola branch library. A virtual open house event for community questions on the Aptos Branch Library is scheduled from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 5. Sign up at surveymonkey.com/r/newapptosbranchlibrary.

After a second round of bidding, supervisors also approved the hiring this month of Scotts Valley-based CRW Industries on a \$1.1 million construction project for Boulder Creek branch library renovations.

Editor's note: The date of the Aptos library town hall meeting date has been updated to reflect an event rescheduling.

IF YOU GO

- **What:** Santa Cruz City Council meeting.
- **When:** 10:30 a.m., Tuesday.
- **Where:** Virtual meeting. Live at Comcast Channel 25, cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-council/council-meetings and communitytv.org/watch/ctv-government-2572. Comment by calling toll-free 833-548-0282, 877-853-5247 and 888-788-0099 or not toll-free at 669-900-9128 and 346-248-7799. Enter ID 928 2917 3723 and participant code “#.” Press *9 to “raise your hand” when the mayor calls for comment.

- **At issue:** Award \$240,000 contract for the library/garage/mixed-use project management.

Santa Cruz downtown project financial details sought prior to contractor hiring

By [JESSICA A. YORK](#) | jyork@santacruzsentinel.com | Santa Cruz Sentinel

PUBLISHED: September 24, 2020 at 4:05 p.m. | UPDATED: September 25, 2020 at 5:33 p.m.

SANTA CRUZ — An otherwise routine contract approval took the Santa Cruz City Council nearly three hours to decide Tuesday, ending with a vote to delay hiring a downtown library-garage-housing project manager.

The council is asking city officials to return at a meeting in October with the completed contract language to hire Griffin Structures Inc. as an “owner’s representative” — a \$240,000 deal. After a barrage of objections from the community and some council members, the council voted unanimously to hear back on “broad-based financial information” on the project’s costs, plus more details on funding available specifically for affordable housing and parking components. Funds planned for the library portion of the project primarily would come from the voter-approved 2016 Measure S library facility bond measure, plus expected private fundraising. This week’s information request doubled down on a similar earlier council request.

The council also is seeking more detailed information on available affordable housing developers that could be linked to the project.

City Manager Martín Bernal told the council that hiring a project manager would help the city to obtain specifics around the planned project.

“All of these questions that the community is asking, they will be answered, they have to be answered, obviously, because you will have to approve every single step of the way, every single agreement in terms of the financing, the permits, the financing plans,” Bernal said. “It’s just a matter of — not all the answers are going to be obtained within a few weeks or a few months. Some will come at a later time.”

Separate from hiring an outside project manager, numerous community members calling in to the virtual meeting continued to protest the mixed-use project, [approved by the council](#) at the end of June, in its entirety.

“Only two weeks ago, we were choking on smoke,” said Santa Cruz Climate Action Network representative Pauline Seales. “Climate change is here now and it’s going to get worse and we have to make drastic changes. Business as usual is completely unacceptable. Around the world, many cities are making drastic moves to become sustainable cities. Building a new garage is completely wrong.”

On the opposite end of the spectrum, Robert Singleton, executive director of the Santa Cruz County Business Council, said he supported hiring an owners' representative for "an incredibly valuable project for the future of our downtown."

"The major decision to move forward with this project has already been taken by this council, so this is really more of a procedural vote to make sure that we have a really strong advocate, to make sure that we're getting the best deal for our taxpayer dollars," Singleton said.

Podcast series features 'Stories from the Epicenter'



Bricks from a collapsed wall of County Bank cover the sidewalk and parked car on Cooper Street across from the Cooper House shortly after the quake hit. (Dan Coyro — Santa Cruz Sentinel file)

By [PK HATTIS](#) |

PUBLISHED: October 13, 2020 at 3:23 p.m. | UPDATED: October 14, 2020 at 4:56 p.m.

The Loma Prieta earthquake struck Santa Cruz County and the greater Bay Area region on Oct. 17, 1989, leaving an indelible imprint on the land itself and the memories of all residents who were there to experience it. In honor of the upcoming 31st year anniversary of the magnitude 6.9 seismic event, the university library at UC Santa Cruz, in partnership with the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History, and Santa Cruz Public Libraries have joined together to produce a 10-part documentary podcast series called "Stories from the Epicenter."

The podcast, which will be released Saturday, chronicles the event from a variety of perspectives by drawing upon present-day and archival interviews with Santa Cruz County residents.

While working on a visual digital curation for the earthquake's 30th anniversary last year, Daniel Story, a digital scholarship librarian at UCSC and the podcast's host and series producer, discovered a set of interviews in the university archive that were conducted by UCSC students just months after the earthquake struck.



(Contributed)

"When I heard them I thought, 'Wow this is great. How can we make these a little more visible,' " he said.

This launched Story and a team of producers into a nearly year long effort that sought not only to explore the facts of the event itself, but also the complex influence of memory in the reflection process.

"My team and I were really interested in the aspect of not just telling what happened as a discrete event, but exploring the concept of memory and how something like this is remembered and commemorated over the years," Story said.

Each episode of the podcast explores the earthquake and its lasting impact from different social, geographic, political, and economic points of view. Story, who himself was a relative newcomer to the Santa Cruz area when the project began in late 2019, found his own knowledge of the county suddenly growing by leaps and bounds as he and his team conducted more than 30 interviews on the topic.

"If you wanted to fast track an understanding of Santa Cruz and maybe Santa Cruz County generally, in terms of its politics, socio-cultural landscape, and even of course the built environment too, there are probably few other discrete events to start with than the earthquake," Story said. "It just touches on so many different things, particularly if you start with the backstory and follow the threads forward."

One of the threads Story and his team found was another collection of audio recordings featuring city residents just weeks after the earthquake took place, many of which are spotlighted in early episodes chronicling the first 30 days of the recovery effort. The interviews were conducted by Nikki Silva, who at the time was working as the history curator at the Historical Trust Museum and a radio host for KQSP.

Silva was living in Mid-County at the time and vividly remembers the breathtaking details of the earthquake itself.

"I heard a sound like a train coming right at you. We all ran outside into an open field, and the whole earth was undulating," Silva said. "It was so eerie. It was like the water."



Pacific Avenue Mall between Church Street and Walnut Avenue looked like a war zone following the quake that hit at 5:04 p.m. October 17, 1989. (Dan Coyro — Santa Cruz Sentinel file)

Silva's roots in historical curation and audio journalism drove her to visit Pacific Garden Mall — today's downtown Santa Cruz — as often as she could in the weeks following the earthquake, just to speak with city residents and document their experiences. The result was more than 100 interviews in total providing a snapshot into early emotions, reactions, and recovery efforts.

"Over the course of a month of interviews, you could really sense the change in mood. It was like everybody going through the stages of grief together," Silva said. "At first people were really sad, and then afraid, and then angry, and then really resolved."

At the time, Silva did not have any plan for the interviews she was conducting, in part, because she did not think it was important to.

"I just felt it was important that they exist," she said, later adding, "I'm just so glad that Daniel and his team along with MAH and the Public Library came together to produce this."

While "Stories from the Epicenter" is optimistic at its core, the series also makes room for some of the neglected and controversial memories many have from that period of time. Such topics include the demolition of the beloved Cooper House, the political tensions involved in the rebuilding process, and the mismanaged efforts to support the City of Watsonville and its majority Latino population in the recovery effort.

Madeline Maria Carpou is a producer and contributor in the series and narrates episode four titled "Watsonville."

“It took a lot of community organizing to help this community regain its footing,” Carpou said. “I did want to highlight some of the suffering that hasn’t been given the attention it needs.”

The episode features interviews with community leaders that emerged in the earthquake’s aftermath, including Rebecca Garcia who was a community organizer at the time and is now the city’s mayor. Garcia helped secure affordable housing and equity in City Council representation in the weeks and months following the earthquake.

In the midst of Story and his team’s gathering of these memories of destruction, hardship, and recovery that were nearly 31 years old, Santa Cruz County was struck again by natural disasters of tremendous significance. While the series does not address the COVID-19 Pandemic and the CZU August Lightning Complex fire in detail, the production team was conscious of the profoundly impactful memories that were being created all around them in real time.

One such producer is Marla Novo, who is also the director of exhibitions and programs at the MAH. Novo produced an episode for the podcast chronicling the art created by the Santa Cruz community during the earthquake’s recovery period and sees striking similarities in modern circumstances.

“Within these emotions of disaster, it is all wrapped up in terrible joy and sorrow and courage and I think that’s what we’re all going through now,” Novo said. “I think remembering things like the Loma Prieta earthquake can help us heal during crises that have come in our modern times.”

The second episode of “Stories from the Epicenter” will be previewed on Wednesday, on “The Kitchen Sisters” — a KSQD radio show hosted by Nikki Silva and Davia Nelson.

There will also be a launch event Friday, which will include a discussion with the series producers, followed by a Q&A with the audience.

For information on that event and the series in general, visit library.ucsc.edu/StoriesFromTheEpicenter

Santa Cruz City Council considers contract for first phase of mixed-use library plan

By [RYAN STUART](#) | rstuart@santacruzsentinel.com |

PUBLISHED: October 25, 2020 at 4:34 p.m. | UPDATED: October 26, 2020 at 9:32 a.m.

SANTA CRUZ – Discussions will continue Tuesday about a contentious proposal for a Mixed-Use Downtown Library Project.

Santa Cruz City Council will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday via Zoom to discuss entering into a contract of \$240,000 with Griffin Structures Inc. for Phase 1 of the project.

The Mixed-Use Downtown Library Project is part of the city’s attempt to create more affordable housing options for Santa Cruz residents. Council members plan to consolidate surface-level parking lots to develop 50 new housing units downtown. These units will consist of 10 moderate-income units, 20 low-income units and 20 very-low-income units.

Downtown Santa Cruz is expected to lose 369 public parking spaces, which is about 10% of what is currently available, as new affordable housing projects continue to come to fruition, according to the City Council Agenda.

Future affordable housing projects are expected to close as many as seven parking lots over the next two years, according to the City Council Agenda. New housing will create an increased

demand for parking downtown. The addition of a parking garage to the downtown library is an effort to limit the loss and keep up with the future demand for available parking in the area. City Council approved the relocation of the downtown library into a mixed-use facility on Sept. 11, 2018. The plan was put on hold until the council decided to [move forward with the project in a 4-2 vote](#) on June 23. The new location of the downtown library will be the parking lot at Cathcart and Cedar streets.

The Mixed-Use Downtown Library Project has been a divisive issue in Santa Cruz. Some residents have expressed concerns over the project, as it will displace the local farmers market and replaces it with a large four-story structure. Others support the project, citing the affordable housing problem in the community.

Other concerns over in the community have been over funding. Community members worried over how the city will fund the project after the council voted it through.

The city plans to fund the project using Measure S funds and community fundraising for the library and parking district funds for the garage. Funding for housing is expected to come from multiple revenue sources. City Council will use the City's Affordable Housing Trust Fund and hopes to include funding from the state or federal level, tax credits and loans.

Santa Cruz City Council will limit public comment to one hour. City Council encourages participants in the public forum to "avoid extensive and repeat comments" in order to give the council time to address as many issues as possible.

Residents can watch the meeting at communitytv.org/watch. The meeting is also available at Comcast Channel 25.

Editor's Note: The new library and garage hybrid structure will be a four-story building, not a six-story building as originally stated in the article, as this would require an exception to city zoning laws. (10-26-20)

Friends of the Capitola Library's new bookstore location continues fundraising



James Hover with Otto Construction works on site of the new Capitola Library. Friends of the Capitola Library continue to raise funds for the library through its bookstore at Capitola Mall. (Kevin Painchaud — Santa Cruz Sentinel)

By [MELISSA HARTMAN](#) | mhartman@santacruzsentinel.com |

PUBLISHED: October 26, 2020 at 4:37 p.m. | UPDATED: October 26, 2020 at 4:46 p.m.

CAPITOLA — The Friends of the Capitola Library are experiencing accelerated sales after reopening their bookstore in the Capitola Mall, according to co-organizers Toni Campbell and Karen Scott.

This is the fourth location mall management has generously offered the non-profit in the last three years and is by far the most spacious, allowing the Friends to resume operations for the first time since early March. The library supporters can again sell \$1 paperbacks and CDs, \$2 hardbacks and DVDs and other items prices marked in an effort to fundraise for the new Capitola Library and the programs that will be offered when it opens in a post-pandemic world.

“While this is clearly a fundraiser... to support the Capitola Library when it opens, it’s a community thing,” Campbell said. “I don’t know, it’s just different. It’s the people’s prices.”

Between the Friends of the Library branch and the building’s unrelated capital campaign managed by Campbell and Gayle Ortiz of Gayle’s Bakery, \$50,000 has been contributed to place solar panels on the facility that will save the Santa Cruz County library system \$20,000 annually. During the library’s 25-year life span, Campbell said, that’s approximately \$800,000 — part of which was raised through the sale of more than 30,000 books priced a buck or two a pop.

“It’s just crazy,” she commented.

Campbell and Scott both had fears that their “time capsule,” or the store next to Macy’s that until three weeks ago held old merchandise and St. Patrick’s Day decorations from before COVID-19, would remain closed for an undetermined amount of time. But when the mall reached out to the

pair about taking the space that used to host Justice, a children's clothing store, their hope was renewed.

"There are books against each wall of the space and one right down the middle," Campbell said. "The distance between the middle and any wall at its narrowest is about 8 feet and at its widest is about 12 feet, so social distancing isn't a problem. The idea was, 'Let's just see how it is for the volunteers. Let's just see if anybody comes in.'"

Volunteers were happily surprised when three groups were waiting outside the doors of their soft opening the weekend of Oct. 17 as it had not been advertised other than through some small, nearby signs. There have been no issues since the opening as everyone has worn masks and been happy to come in. Beyond the "regulars" that shopped at the former Friends of the Library locations in the mall, families who have never entered the library itself have shown up and made children's chapter books the most popular sell for the store since its reopening, Campbell said.

"There was a young girl who walked up to a volunteer (holding) a biography of Elton John," she said of a more ambitious young reader. "She said, 'How much is this book?' Well there are signs posted everywhere... The book was in perfect condition, and the volunteer said \$2 and the kid went nuts. She was thrilled."

The new location has also given the Friends of the Library real storage space for the first time. This is exciting for the organizers, who have been continuing donation pickups through a contactless, front-porch system.

"We didn't have very many places to store (the books)," Campbell said. "We would get a notice from somebody in the last many months who said, 'Are you accepting books? We have some to donate.' Nobody was accepting them. We'd say yes... most (books) are laterally cycled at least one more time and money is collected that helps."

Scott said that securing the location was more than just a stroke of luck: It was a task completed with strong determination. Scott pointed at the Aptos, Scotts Valley and Felton chapters specifically as examples of how a community can support its library.

"Other chapters haven't done the same thing we've done, but they've also done some amazing things for their branches, for the system," she said. "I've long been a library lover. I volunteered at the Capitola branch for quite a few years... I wasn't expecting to be this involved."

Scott said that if last weekend's sales were any indication, Santa Cruz County has followed the national trend of increased readership as officials continue to urge residents to stay home when possible to curve the climb of the coronavirus.

"People can order books (from the library), but they can't go in and browse books, choose books," she said. "A lot of people, I think, really missed that... We feel like we're doing community service in two ways: We're supporting the library and we're providing services to communities. Our bookstore, we feel, is a community service."

The Friends of the Capitola Library are looking for book, CD and DVD donations. To arrange a pickup, (831) 854-750 or email karen@sploids.com.

Santa Cruz City Council moves forward with library project

The vote to award Griffin Structures Inc. the first phase of the Mixed-Use Downtown Library Project passed by a 4-2 vote.

By [RYAN STUART](#) | rstuart@santacruzsentinel.com |

PUBLISHED: October 28, 2020 at 3:06 p.m. | UPDATED: October 29, 2020 at 5:03 p.m.

SANTA CRUZ – The Santa Cruz City Council elected to move forward with the Mixed-Use Downtown Library Project and award Phase 1 of the contract to Griffin Structures Inc. in a 4-2 vote, Tuesday.

Councilwomen Katherine Beiers and Sandy Brown dissented. Councilwoman Cynthia Mathews recused herself from the vote due to a conflict of interest.

The council expressed interest in Griffin Structures' 40 years of experience in similar projects. It has worked on projects such as libraries, affordable housing and parking. It has also done projects locally. Griffin Structures was contracted to work on the Half Moon Bay and Watsonville libraries.

"We were incredibly excited about Griffin Structures," said Amanda Rotella, a principal management analyst for the City of Santa Cruz Economic Development Office. "They had an incredibly strong proposal and have a ton of experience working on complex projects."

Phase 1 will consist entirely of the design and permitting process in the amount of \$240,000. The first phase will begin in November and is expected to be finished by mid-2022, Rotella said.

"That would give us as a city a lot more flexibility around the timing and what we're committing to financially in terms of a contract," Rotella said. "Rather than committing to the whole big package, having this smaller contract for the \$240,000."

The Mixed-Use Downtown Library Project is a multifaceted project that aims to provide downtown Santa Cruz with a new, state-of-the-art library as well as affordable housing to combat the city's housing crisis. The project includes an attached parking garage to the new library to mitigate the expected loss in parking from building new housing units.

The entire project is estimated to cost from \$77 million to \$83 million between all three facets. The new \$27 million library will be funded by Measure S. The remaining \$50 million to \$56 million is split between affordable housing and parking projects.

Affordable housing is projected to cost \$30 million, with a 20% contribution from the city of roughly \$6 million, according to City of Santa Cruz Director of Economic Development Bonnie Lipscomb. Other funding will come from federal and state grants, loans, tax credits and investors. The project will create a minimum of 50 affordable housing units.

The remaining estimated costs of \$20 million to \$26 million are allocated toward the parking garage, said Brian Borguno, the city's parking program manager. The project will be supported by the Parking District Fund. The parking garage is expected to create 400 parking spaces in downtown Santa Cruz.

The City Council received a polarized response from the public over the proposed project. Supporters of the library project cited the need for public parking downtown during times where tourists flood the streets. Several commenters also mentioned the success of the Watsonville library that has an attached parking structure.

"That right there in our county shows you that buildings can be utilized to the maximum and leverage the funding that we have through Measure S," said Yolanda Henry of the Downtown Library Advisory Committee. "Our city depends on tourism. Our tourists who come, they're going to drive here, and they will need somewhere to park so they can shop in dine in our area."

Conversely, opposers of the project claimed pushing it forward would be fiscally irresponsible during the pandemic. Additionally, they claimed a yes vote would sew the seeds of mistrust in the public as they believed a vote for Measure S was to renovate the current library, not build a new one.

Councilwoman Renee Golder responded to the claims about Measure S by reading the ballot language.

“Under fiscal impacts statements of Measure S, the second paragraph it says, ‘...this shall include without limitation new construction, building renovations and service model upgrades such as separate areas for teens and children, flexible spaces and or meeting rooms and study rooms, flooring, painting, etcetera,” Golder said. “On the public libraries’ website, they have the ballot language there. It was on page three.”

The next step for the project will be to work with Griffin Structures to hire a design team. The city will also work with the farmers market to finalize a design at the new location. The city plans to move the farmers market down the street to the parking lot on Cathcart and Front streets. Lastly, the City Council will explore future options for the current library.

Home & Garden Digest

October 29, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

SANTA CRUZ

Santa Cruz Permaculture featured in SCPL virtual discussion

Join Santa Cruz Permaculture from 6-7:30 p.m. Nov. 19 for the next in the Santa Cruz Public Library’s monthly virtual discussion series intended to help build resiliency within our community. November’s event focuses on food security and community resilience, with special emphasis on climate change and pandemics. The event will provide an overview of the topic, and a panel of local leaders, experts, and educators discussing how this issue impacts the Santa Cruz community. The event will end with public Q&A and tips for how individuals can create a stronger and more supportive community. To register, visit santacruzpl.libcal.com and browse the calendar by date.

Santa Cruz Sentinel *Editorials*

Stephen Kessler | City rolls the dice on the Tag Garage

By [STEPHEN KESSLER](#) | Santa Cruz Sentinel, September 26, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

At its June 23 meeting when it approved what is now known as the mixed-use library-housing project—formerly known as the garage-library project, aka the Taj Garage, subsequently lipsticked with “at least 50 units of affordable housing,” thereby eliminating a couple hundred supposedly desperately-needed parking spaces—the Santa Cruz City Council directed staff “to provide a report to the City Council at the earliest possible time, but no later than three months, containing detailed financial information regarding each component of the mixed-use project.”

Exactly three months later, on Sept. 22, with no such report delivered, the council’s consent agenda contained a “Motion to award the contract for the Mixed Use Library Owner’s Representative for Phase 1 to Griffin Structures Inc. ... in the amount of \$240,000 and authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement in a form to be approved by the City Attorney.” Absent the requested financial information, and without the actual contract in hand, the council was being

asked for its consent, without further discussion, to authorize the significant expenditure of city funds toward a project of unknown cost so that Griffin Structures could move forward with “pre-design, design, and permitting,” presumably including the missing financial data on estimated actual costs of the structure’s discrete components: library, housing and parking.

When council members Katherine Beiers and Sandy Brown raised the question of financial information, essential to making an informed decision on a project of such magnitude and complexity, the city’s Principal Management Analyst Amanda Rotella, Director of Economic Development Bonnie Lipscomb and City Manager Martín Bernal attempted to explain that the financial details would be provided later by Griffin. In other words, without any realistic idea of what it will cost to build, the council was expected to believe on faith that the mixed-use project would be affordable.

As neither the library nor the housing nor the parking component has been designed, there’s no way of knowing accurately how much they will actually cost. And without a finished contract in hand, Mayor Justin Cummings reasonably asked, “What are we spending our money for in this contract?” After further discussion, the council postponed authorization to go ahead until the requested financial data are delivered at their second meeting in October, extending the deadline for another month.

This episode illustrates the power dynamic between council and staff that I wrote about last week. Staff apparently presumed that the council would sign off on something they hadn’t seen involving a huge and many-faceted building of no more than conceptual existence at this point. Nobody really knows how much each component will cost or how much additional money must be raised, or from where, to make up for predictable shortfalls in funds already dedicated to this project. This is a strangely irresponsible way of doing business amid the worst economic conditions since the Great Depression and a city budget deficit of more than \$19 million.

Whether staff was deliberately trying to pull a fast one on the council by slipping the unread contract into the consent agenda, or just being negligent and unresponsive to the directive to provide financial information, this reckless and opaque process is typical of how this whole unfortunate saga has unfolded. If they had simply taken the Measure S funds meant to renovate the library in Civic Center and begun renovating, we might have had a new library by now. But since someone in City Hall had the brilliantly bad idea of moving the library into a parking garage regardless of public opinion, the city has wasted tons of time and money trying to impose its will on the citizenry by whatever devious, deceptive and misleading means it could devise. This time, at least three members of the City Council had the fiscal conscientiousness and courage to say, Hey, wait a minute!

Let’s see what the city comes up with next month in the way of a financial report.

Stephen Kessler’s column appears on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Guest Commentary | Library project key to solving affordable housing crisis

October 13, 2020 at 6:00 a.m.

By Bonnie Lipscomb

It’s no secret we are in an affordable housing crisis in Santa Cruz. This is an issue that affects every corner of our community. We need housing for workers to live closer to their jobs in the city, reduce their carbon footprint and increase their quality of life. We need housing for young families with children who would like to be able to put down roots, and for seniors who would like to be able to live out their golden years in a place they’ve called home for decades.

The Library Mixed-Use Project is the key that unlocks the city's ability to build more affordable housing in Downtown Santa Cruz. It has been approved by the City Council to move forward, and it is within our reach.

The city has a deep commitment to and track record of success in developing mixed-use and affordable housing projects. Over the last 30 years, the city has built or financed more than 1,300 affordable housing units in Santa Cruz. In just the last 10 years we have completed projects like the Tannery Arts Center, a 100-unit, 100% affordable mixed-use housing project built on city-owned property. In addition to the beautiful live-work spaces for artists on site developed by ArtSpace, the campus is home to 28 working studios, a theater, dance studio, gallery, cafe and the offices of Arts Council Santa Cruz County. The city led the renovation of the working studios and the current home of the Arts Council while the non-profit Tannery Arts Center developed the Colligan Theater.

The city also partnered with For the Future Housing on two more affordable housing projects within the same time period, the 21-unit Riverwalk Apartments on Lindberg Street and the recently completed 41-unit Water Street Apartments. The city is currently moving forward on an 85-unit mixed-use affordable housing project below the Metro transit center on Pacific Avenue, which also includes a new expanded downtown home for the Santa Cruz Community Health Center and Dientes, providing affordable medical and dental care for the greater Santa Cruz community.

Concerned community members have raised questions about the city's ability to finance the project including the affordable housing. The financial models for the library mixed-use project are sound. The Economic Development team has completed a number of feasibility studies over the last five years, which can be viewed at our project website (cityofsantacruz.com/mixeduselibrary).

The affordable housing portion of the project will be funded by a variety of sources including the city's Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, and available HOME funds. Additionally, we currently have two state grant applications for affordable housing funding in the pipeline that will bring significant new revenue for the affordable housing component of the project. While funding affordable housing projects often involves complicated layering of many funding sources, in the larger context of a mixed-use housing project, it is often the most secure funding component of the project.

The Library Mixed-Use Project is the most fiscally responsible, equitable and sustainable approach the city can take to steward precious resources, especially during tough times. We can ensure equity and inclusion through a minimum of 50 affordable units, all of which will be set aside for low and very low-income tenants, and by serving the needs of families, teens and seniors through a modern library in ways unable to be achieved in a renovation of the existing site. And the new building will promote sustainability through best practices in urban design, green infrastructure and consolidated and shared parking that encourages pedestrian travel throughout downtown.

It is the city's responsibility to plan not just for the needs of residents today, but for the future needs of our entire community. The Library Mixed-Use Project provides opportunity for current and future residents, bringing a modern library to our downtown and anchoring families for a more prosperous future.

Bonnie Lipscomb is Santa Cruz's Economic Development Director.

Mark Primack | Break the slate, vote for substance in Santa Cruz City Council election
October 18, 2020 at 6:30 a.m.

Days after the Oct. 17, 1989, Loma Prieta earthquake, a few of us presented the City Council with a proposal to place large tents on some city parking lots to accommodate displaced merchants in time for the holidays. The mayor insisted that a parking study be undertaken to determine the impact of that lost parking on downtown commerce and sales tax revenue. Remember, the downtown had just been destroyed, and was fenced off.

Authoritative inertia can be a powerful force even in crisis, but reality eventually dawned and some of those businesses were still open downtown when the pandemic hit. But how will besieged brick-and-mortar retail fare in a post-COVID economy? And parking structures? Or even libraries?

City managers know that it's one thing to drum up money for constructing facilities like parks and libraries, but another thing entirely to keep the gates and doors open year after year. Unfortunately, political legacies are written in battles won or prizes landed, not in sustained peace or paid bills. Unlike business people, politicians prosper when they confuse sales with service and so they rarely look past the next election. The downtown library/garage/affordable housing project will fail sooner or later. It's really not a substantive issue in this City Council race because, finally, substance has become critical, no longer hypothetical. We must confront the systemic conflicts and myopia that this pandemic, recession and recent fires are now rubbing in our faces. So I'm going to vote for unity and cooperation.

At a televised 'town hall' meeting, Joe Biden was asked if, in today's social media cauldron of Facebook militias and woke activists, it's still possible to "reach across the aisle." He explained how it's done. "You have to focus on substance, not motive." That's a tall order for Santa Cruz, where divisive politics has only ever been about alleged motives, and never substance. Claiming to know another's motives is the foundation of all bias, prejudice, self-righteousness and most fears. On Joe's more generous hand, when you focus on substance — the what, how and why of a project, policy or initiative — you gain understanding, trust and ground. I think there's now the potential for a truly new City Council.

The official ballot states that council races are non-partisan. What an old and tired joke. Contentious four-three splits are not our default setting by chance, but the self-fulfilling prophecy and life-blood of contentious, litigious politicians. Presumably, harmony does not poll well here. Their weapons of mass division are the slates that present us with beholden candidates with ready-made endorsements, seasoned handlers and foregone positions.

But this year is decidedly different. The ad nausea accusations of negative "motives" have been muted. No one wants to sound like a White House tweet right now, especially in the absence of an on-campus voting bloc. And, oddly, these don't look like lock-step candidates, though most have yet to dip a toe in the quicksand of governance. True, all have expressed concerns for the economy, the unhoused, justice, safety and health, but there's little of substance to inform our choice, nothing germane to the office sought save the life experiences and professed character of each individual. The two seasoned incumbents are difficult exceptions; each has proven a willing participant in four-three divisiveness, either as leader or lackey. So how to choose?

I choose to break both slates, once and for all. I'm voting for a seven-person council of those who, together with sitting members, will reflect the backgrounds, interests and needs of all of us, yes, but more importantly, I'm voting for those who, once elected, will leave their tribes at the door and represent the interests and needs of all of us here in Santa Cruz. If we as voters set the bar at a unified council that focuses on substance, eventually we'll get one, and leave the motive-baiting to the also-rans.

My particular non-slate is Brown, Cardenas, Brunner and Kalantari-Johnson. Yours might be different. I don't care, as long as we start voting for actual people and leave slates to stew in their own fomenting juices.

Mark Primack would like to hear from you at mark@markprimack.com. Contributions to the Elizabeth Butler Home/Studio, which is now under construction, can be made at County Bank.

Guest Commentary | Measure S funds should be used to renovate downtown library

October 22, 2020 at 7:00 a.m.

By Sandra Ivany

It is just remarkable that Bonnie Lipscomb, economic director of the City of Santa Cruz, could write a Guest Commentary Oct. 13 that claims, "... the library plan is the key to solving housing crisis".

Ms. Lipscomb claims that the funding sources for the six story garage with library have already been identified. Despite what she writes, actual costs as well as funding sources are obviously unclear and unspecified.

Another unknown in this proposal concerns the future usage of the current library building. This building sits opposite City Hall and the Civic Center making library renovation a perfect way to solidify a Civic Center.

And what is to be the fate of the current library building? Before any decision is made to move forward or spend any funds at all this question must be answered.

There has been speculation that the current library building would be renovated for offices of city staff or even that it might be leased or sold to Amazon.

The current estimate for the multi-use complex is estimated to be \$85 million – \$100 million to be paid for over 30 years. That is a very large range and a tremendous expenditure for a city with a current projected \$20 million budget deficit in the next two years.

Consider for a moment that the new lot for the proposed farmers market would move to Cathcart and Front streets. Ironically, very scarce parking is near that lot and the lot itself is half the size of current space on which the present farmers market stands.

Why has this not been taken into consideration in the countless hours of meetings and discussions about this topic?

Does Santa Cruz need a 400-space parking garage? Consultants hired to study the matter state "no." And who will be the population to most enjoy a library on the first floor of a six-story parking garage? Would parents and families be attracted to such a library or would they opt instead to visit other branches of the library system?

Imagine the two years of construction, noise and disruption to traffic building this six-story project in the heart of downtown. How would that impact local business?

And once completed, how would this behemoth architecturally affect the charming "village" feel of Cedar Street called for in the 2017 Downtown Plan? Has an analysis been made about how Cedar Street would maintain the traffic flows toward a 400-space garage?

What is our vision for a better downtown Santa Cruz? The current farmers market lot is the largest open space downtown. There will be no replacing it. We need public space to draw people into the heart of Santa Cruz — a place for people to gather — a downtown “commons”. And the renovated library, with doors facing City Hall, would only enhance the Civic Center area.

It is such a pity that after four years, the community is still spending time and energy to oppose the ill-conceived mixed-use project. Building a garage is the last thing Santa Cruz needs to do right now. It is based on outdated philosophies and concepts of urban planning. The community has largely made that clear.

A significant City Council meeting takes place Oct. 27 — “detailed financial information regarding each component of the mixed use project” will be presented. In that meeting, City Council could vote to approve the hiring of a project manager for the construction at the cost of \$240,000.

Please attend on Oct. 27 via Zoom and comment with your views and vision for Santa Cruz. The funds for the library remodel are available right now: Voting on Measure S in 2016 was a vote to restore 10 libraries in Santa Cruz County.

And please consider carefully the positions of the City Council candidates on this matter before you vote.

Sandra Ivany has been a Santa Cruz resident since 1988.

Guest Commentary | Library Project Game-Changer for Equity in Santa Cruz

PUBLISHED: October 22, 2020 at 7:00 a.m. | UPDATED: October 22, 2020 at 6:58 p.m.

By Donna Meyers

Last fall I had a conversation with high school and Cabrillo College students that convinced me that our new Library Mixed-Use Project will be a game-changer for equity and accessibility in Santa Cruz. These students seek a place that is quiet, bright and inspiring. They live in homes that are overcrowded, hectic and oftentimes with no internet.

Libraries are intended to serve everyone and anchor a community in common learning and opportunity. It is important to understand exactly where the city is with this critical project. First, let's clarify. The Library Mixed-Use Project has been approved by the City Council, but it has not been designed. There is much to be determined by a community-driven design process that includes significant engagement and input. Together, we will build a modern library that serves all residents. By leveraging our resources, we also get affordable housing for low and very-low-income individuals and consolidated and shared parking that unlocks our ability to build additional housing and improve the pedestrian experience. These are proven strategies to combat the effects of climate change.

In my day job, I am a scientist, so I am drawn to facts. Based on the analysis to date, the mixed-use option is the best way to meet the programmatic goals of the library with the limited resources we have. The Library in the Mixed-Use Project will be 5,000 square feet larger than can be achieved in a renovation of the existing library. The larger square footage and more efficient footprint will provide more space for books, accessibility for people with disabilities and engaging children's and technology-rich teen zones accessed by a separate entrance. It will provide space for additional services like genealogy and life literacy, and bathrooms sufficient to meet the needs of more than 1,000 patrons who currently walk through the doors daily.

The Library Mixed-Use Project will also be more sustainable than a renovation through its efficient building infrastructure, ability to add solar, more bike parking, safe bike access and increased durability to lengthen the building's lifespan. A new building increases the city's opportunity for grant funding and allows the existing library to remain open for residents during construction.

The project will add a minimum of 50 much-needed affordable housing units. I think about my nieces who grew up in Santa Cruz, young people who are ready to start families, or seniors on fixed incomes. Without serious progress on affordable housing, none of these people will be able to stay here, and we'll lose what we love about our community — its economic, racial and age diversity.

The inclusion of shared parking in the Library Mixed-Use Project unlocks the door to more affordable housing projects in the downtown district. Many aren't aware that we are losing nearby parking lots at Calvary Episcopal Church and along Front Street. As a result, the project will only add around 31 spaces downtown. Shared parking for residents, shoppers and downtown workers incentivizes smart and sustainable future development.

Many people also aren't aware there is funding and space set aside to build a new, permanent home for the farmers market at Cathcart and Front streets. This downtown location for the market opens up connections to the river and Riverwalk and can also be used for community gatherings and events when not in use by the farmers market.

Finally, the Library Mixed-Use Project provides a chance for us to come together to support each other in a time of crisis due to COVID-19 and the recent fires. We must recommit to an equitable and inclusive downtown for the future, just like we did after the earthquake. Our beloved downtown and locally-owned businesses need our support more than ever. Even before the pandemic they faced the challenges of online competition and changing consumer behavior. The mixed-use project downtown is a responsible investment in downtown's future and the future success of our local downtown businesses.

Let's honor the best of Santa Cruz of today and what we know it can be in the future — a vibrant, thriving and inclusive community with room for all. The opportunity is before us. Your voice and ideas will count as we start to design this key civic building.

Donna Meyers is Vice Mayor of the Santa Cruz City Council and General Manager of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Santa Cruz Sentinel *Letters to the Editor*

Letter | Reconsider plans for new library during COVID-19

By [LETTERS TO THE EDITOR](#) | Santa Cruz Sentinel

September 27, 2020 at 7:00 a.m.

Santa Cruz should reconsider and suspend the intention to build a new library and parking garage.

Prior to the pandemic I was at the downtown Santa Cruz library five days a week. In that time I observed what's happening at that library, which is mostly a daytime hangout for transients.

Mostly, they use the computers to surf the net, charge phones, and sneak a snooze. Sneezing, hacking, and coughing, on top of poor hygiene was a foundation of the library – a germ factory.

Since the proliferation of the internet, library usage by non-transient patrons has declined. Now, with the world in a stay away from COVID-19 mode, building a new library, a place where normally many people congregate, just doesn't make any sense. The present library should remain the same, and it remains to be seen if transients will ever again be able to hang out and spend their time there.

— *Charles Birimisa, Watsonville*

Letter | Library plan will bring benefits to Santa Cruz

By [LETTERS TO THE EDITOR](#) | Santa Cruz Sentinel

October 3, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

I am proud of the City of Santa Cruz for moving ahead with a planned new library complex in our downtown. After years of hearings, the City Council has approved a larger, thoughtful library redesign. Our current city-center library is just too small, laid out for the needs of our town in the 60s, lacks easy parking access for families and disabled patrons, and is not energy efficient. The farmers market is by its nature a mobile phenomenon and will find a new location, and in its place we will get not only a new library with attached parking, but more downtown affordable living units.

Tall buildings are not evil; they indicate maturity of the community and a usage consolidation that combats sprawl.

— *Jane Heyse, Santa Cruz*

Letter | Library plans ignore climate change effects

By [LETTERS TO THE EDITOR](#) | Santa Cruz Sentinel

October 4, 2020 at 7:00 a.m.

As an evacuee from the CZU fire, the effects of climate change have never been more real to me. What California is experiencing, like Australia's wildfires earlier this year, should alarm us all. Our resource consumption is unsustainable, and is driving worsening environmental collapse.

So I'm surprised and troubled to see the Santa Cruz City Council pressing ahead with plans to displace the farmers market, destroy its beautiful magnolia trees, and build a 400 space parking garage adjacent to a new library on Lot 4, despite strong public opposition. This project commits the city to more car-centric planning, is financially shaky, and ignores the city's Climate Action Plan. It also fails residents, both city and county, who voted for Measure S with the expectation that the current library would be renovated, not discarded.

— *Kristen Sandel, Ben Lomond*

Letter | A new library in mixed-use plan not larger

By [LETTERS TO THE EDITOR](#) | Santa Cruz Sentinel

October 8, 2020 at 6:00 a.m.

Letter writer Jane Heyse is misinformed in stating that the library in the mixed use project is a larger redesign, compared to the existing library, which is 44,000 square feet. The proposed mixed-use plan will not result in a larger library. Current available financing only provides for a 30,000 square foot bare-bones library, whether it is built in the 5 – 6 story structure proposed for Lot 4 or rebuilt at the Civic Center, using the existing library building. She wrote of easy parking access. The renovation/rebuild plan shows a convenient entry from an existing surface lot right next door to the library. One shouldn't assume there will be free parking in the very costly planned garage, or whether it will be more accessible than a surface lot.

— *Judi Grunstra, Santa Cruz*

Letter | Community doesn't want library/garage project

October 15, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

Economic. Development. Director Bonnie Lipscomb is clearly leading the political charge on a staff-driven project that has little support in the community. It has become crystal clear over the past two years that support is lacking for the idea of placing the downtown library below five stories of concrete. Ms. Lipscomb has done no poll, or even walked neighborhoods like so many of us, to discern what the will of the people actually is. No voter I have spoken to during this campaign season wants this parking structure. City staff wants it, but the people do not. So, what do they do? Throw some "affordable" housing into the mix because everyone wants affordable housing. True, but not on this site. The farmers market is on this site. The city owns at least three other downtown parcels, all quite suitable for housing. The council is deeply divided on this project and must direct City Manager Bernal and Ms. Lipscomb to please stop this charade.

— *Chris Krohn, Santa*

Letter | Double talk in library project commentary

October 15, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

In her article proselytizing the garage/library/housing triad, the City's Economic Development Director makes three shaky points. First, she flaunts that 1,300 affordable housing units have been built in the past 30 years. That is an average of only 43 units per year. With such a meager record, I would not go around advertising it. And the few affordable units to be built with the new garage merely continue this dismal record.

Secondly, she contends that a modern library is “unable to be achieved in a renovation of the existing site.” This is a highly contested opinion that does not square with the facts.

Thirdly, she claims that the triad concoction will provide “consolidated and shared parking that encourages pedestrian travel throughout downtown.” In other words, all the new traffic that will pour into the new garage is going to stimulate pedestrians. What double talk!

— *Aldo Giacchino, Santa Cruz*

Letter | Library with garage will bring people downtown

October 18, 2020 at 6:30 a.m.

There really is a community (to which I belong) in favor of an accessible modern main library built into a multipurpose building. I want to say that I, for one, happily drove regularly to the downtown Santa Cruz area. I then parked my car and walked around with friends, sometimes for hours. This is how a garage fosters pedestrians. People don’t drive to a garage to sit in their cars and rest or sleep or listen to the radio. The centrally located library with accessible garage will bring people to the library, the restaurants that survive the pandemic, the bookstore, and any other stores. We live all over the county and really have no other convenient, easy way of going to the main branch of our county library.

— *Johanna Bowen, Santa Cruz*

Letter | Op-ed on library project was propaganda

October 18, 2020 at 6:30 a.m.

The Santa Cruz Economic Development Director, Bonnie Lipscomb, is a civil servant, not a political office holder. I was therefore surprised by her guest commentary (Oct. 13) promoting the mixed-use project on the city-owned Parking Lot 4, where the Farmers Market is held.

Lipscomb claims the project is “fiscally responsible,” failing to mention that with only \$25.5 million of Measure S funds left for the Downtown Library, that component is \$5-\$6 million short of funding. The parking garage component gets no mention, for good reason: it is unnecessary. For affordable housing, two state grant applications are “in the pipeline,” but award notices were expected last August.

Civil servants should not waste time writing propaganda when city staff failed to meet the council’s deadline that they provide financial information about the mixed-use project by Sept. 23. If Lipscomb wants to engage in politics, she should resign and run for office.

— *Robert Morgan, Santa Cruz*

Letter | Mixed-use library project benefits everyone

October 28, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

Thank you, Ryan Stuart for balanced reporting on the library mixed-use project. Two separate reviews of this project (the Downtown Library Advisory Committee and the City Council Downtown Library Subcommittee) have favored this solution. It has also been supported by two different City Councils. There is a reason for that: it provides a library which serves everyone (veterans, the homeless, children, young students who need a place to study, genealogy researchers, and the disabled because of improved access). It will also allow the library system to house a larger collection and provide more digital access for patrons with more workstations and computers. This is the right thing to do. Let's not miss this opportunity.

— *Matt Farrell, Santa Cruz*

Letter | Questions on library project not answered

November 1, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

On Tuesday, answering Katherine Beiers' questions about Measure S, Renee Golder said "On the public libraries' website, they have the ballot language there." But Golder did not quote Measure S ballot language of "construct/expand where necessary." Instead Golder quoted the Fiscal Impact statement by the County Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector, which referred to new construction as defined in the ballot question. Beiers' questions of how it was determined necessary to build a new downtown branch and when it was planned to put it in a parking garage were not answered.

Then Martin Bernal used a 2013 internal library feasibility study to imply that we, the voters, knew that the downtown branch would be newly built in a mixed-use facility. But that document only referred to replacing, rebuilding or building new and maybe a joint-use facility with other public or private partners "on its current site." Repeat: on its current site.

— *Jean Brocklebank, Santa Cruz*

Letter | Library vote by council a win for whole system

November 6, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

The recent Santa Cruz City Council vote to move forward with a contract on the mixed-use downtown library project is a win for the whole library system. The branch in question is not only the downtown branch, but also the system's central branch. Closing it for years to replace it with a smaller building would cost all the libraries from Boulder Creek to La Selva with rental and storage fees, plus the loss of unique services such as the genealogy resources. There is no funding for these costs. The other branches are using their Measure S allotments on their facilities and the money comes from system-wide bond funding. Thanks, Santa Cruz, for seeing the bigger picture.

— *Linda Fridy, Soquel*

Letter | Put library multi-use project to community vote

November 6, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

I agree with the main points in a recent column by Mayor Justin Cummings, who states, "... we believe our democratic principles call on us to protect the right to debate, disagree and make our opinions known." Those who opposed the garage/library/housing project have made their voices known, by an overwhelming margin.

Mayor Cummings says: "One of the most effective ways to have our voices heard is through our informed vote, and at the local level, voting is key to having your voice heard on issues that directly affect our community."

I absolutely agree. Let it be decided at the ballot box, not by a City Council cobbled together after a contentious recall and that's clearly not in agreement this project would be good for Santa Cruz.

If a community vote supports the garage/housing/library project displacing the farmers market, killing any chance for a Downtown Park, I would duly shut up. That's democracy.

— Curt Simmons, Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz Sentinel *Coastlines*

Coast Line | Libraries offer Tech Talk series

By [DONALD FUKUI](#) | dfukui@santacruzsentinel.com | Santa Cruz Sentinel
September 30, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

SANTA CRUZ

Libraries offer Tech Talk series

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries continues its Tech Talks series led by its librarians in October. All the events are from 11 a.m. to noon. The first Tech Talk event focuses on the library's mobile app Thursday. To register for any of the Tech Talk events, visit santacruzpl.libcal.com. Programs throughout the month include:

- Oct. 8, mobile device security: Protect yourself from theft, scams, hacking and malware.
- Oct. 15, news and disinformation: Explore the strategies and tools journalists use for identifying misinformation.
- Oct. 22, unlimited learning: Know the apps to learn how to do just about anything.
- Oct. 29, own your data: Leverage privacy apps and settings to reduce your digital footprint

Reviews

Yelp No reviews on Yelp.

Google My Business

Felton received a 4 Star Review on September 29

Free public Wi-Fi, no password.

Felton received a 5 star Review on October 27

Spent the morning teaching my Special Ed on Zoom in the parking lot. My house has no electricity or internet since Sunday.

Aptos received a 5 Star Rating with no review on November 5

Downtown received a 5 Star Rating with no review on November 8

Felton received a 5Star Review on November 8

Awesome Library!

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



STAFF REPORT

DATE: December 3, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director
RE: 1st Qtr. Report Community Impact Measures

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Accept and File Community Impact Measures for 1st Qtr. FY 2020-2021

DISCUSSION

This 1st quarter report covers the time period of July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020 and compares this data to the previous year.

Due to the impact of COVID-19 protective measures, the library system closed all branches March 15, 2020. The Library quickly assessed budget shortfalls, staffing and continuing library services. Virtual programs continued almost immediately. However, because of the virtual nature of the program's attendance was unable to be tracked. Curbside service began to be available late May first at Aptos, Downtown, and Scotts Valley. Quickly followed by Felton and Live Oak. Curbside visitors were not able to be counted.

Given these unprecedented circumstances the closures have had dramatic effects on our community impact measures.

- Total circulation system-wide decreased by 48.8%
- Total visitors by branch system-wide: Branches have been closed since March 15, 2020.
- Total number of new registrations decreased by 52.2%

- Total hours of public internet computer use system-wide: Branches have been closed since March 15, 2020.
- Total hours of wireless internet sessions: Branches have been closed since March 15, 2020.
- Total sessions of public internet use: Branches have been closed since March 15, 2020.
- Total number of public wifi sessions: Branches have been closed since March 15, 2020.
- Total hours of meeting room use system-wide: Branches have been closed since March 15, 2020.
- The total number of programs held system-wide decreased by 94.0% and system-wide program attendance decreased by 91.1%

Attachment:

1st Quarter Community Impact Measures

Report Prepared by: Kira Henifin, Principal Management Analyst
Christine Campbell, Library Assistant IV

Reviewed and Forwarded by: Susan Nemitz, Library Director

CIRCULATION BY BRANCH														
	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY 20/21
Aptos	57,622	17,414	-69.8%	52,919		-100%	45,835		-100%	3,823		-100%	57,622	17,414
Boulder Creek	10,589	0	-100.0%	9,387		-100%	5,567		-100%	0		0%	10,589	0
Branciforte	20,325	164	-99.2%	18,534		-100%	16,901		-100%	28		-100%	20,325	164
Capitola	0	0	0.0%	0		0%	0		0%	0		0%	0	0
Downtown	59,841	19,912	-66.7%	54,533		-100%	46,755		-100%	4,970		-100%	59,841	19,912
Felton	6,258	5,572	-11.0%	2,600		-100%	8,807		-100%	1,015		-100%	6,258	5,572
Garfield Park	14,077	57	-99.6%	13,585		-100%	11,698		-100%	3		-100%	14,077	57
La Selva Beach	3,803	22	-99.4%	22		-100%	0		0%	0		0%	3,803	22
Live Oak	46,950	12,703	-72.9%	44,236		-100%	38,089		-100%	1,778		-100%	46,950	12,703
Scotts Valley	47,723	8,561	-82.1%	46,643		-100%	40,423		-100%	3,663		-100%	47,723	8,561
Outreach	9,732	1,689	-82.6%	9,796		-100%	8,969		-100%	1,613		-100%	9,732	1,689
TOTAL	276,920	66,094	-76.1%	252,255		-100%	223,044		-100%	16,893		-100%	276,920	66,094
Digital Branch	85,739	119,424	39.3%	85,148		-100%	103,408		-100%	146,523		-100%	85,739	119,424
Total incl. DB	362,659	185,518	-48.8%	337,403		-100%	326,452		-100%	163,416		-100%	362,659	185,518

VISITORS BY BRANCH														
	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21
Aptos	38,126	0	-100.0%	33,943		-100%	29,908		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	38,126	0
Boulder Creek	8,701	0	-100.0%	5,438		-100%	851		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	8,701	0
Branciforte	22,904	0	-100.0%	22,318		-100%	19,237		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	22,904	0
Capitola	0	0	0.0%	0		0%	0		0%	0		#DIV/0!	0	0

Downtown	89,823	0	-100.0%	80,621		-100%	73,501		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	89,823	0
Felton	6,129	0	-100.0%	2,176		-100%	11,695		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	6,129	0
Garfield Park	18,134	0	-100.0%	18,592		-100%	14,683		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	18,134	0
La Selva Beach	7,704	0	-100.0%	0		0%	0		0%	0		#DIV/0!	7,704	0
Live Oak	42,943	0	-100.0%	38,143		-100%	32,081		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	42,943	0
Scotts Valley	45,511	0	-100.0%	44,331		-100%	33,785		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	45,511	0
Outreach	6,513	0	-100.0%	6,105		-100%	5,445		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	6,513	0
TOTAL	286,488	0	-100.0%	251,667		-100%	221,186		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	286,488	0

NEW REGISTRATIONS														
	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21
Aptos	341	214	-37.2%	338		-100%	291		-100%	118		-100%	341	214
Boulder Creek	77	15	-80.5%	70		-100%	55		-100%	12		-100%	77	15
Branciforte	123	43	-65.0%	129		-100%	99		-100%	35		-100%	123	43
Capitola	35	91	160.0%	27		-100%	14		-100%	39		-100%	35	91
Downtown	729	370	-49.2%	669		-100%	575		-100%	377		-100%	729	370
Felton	61	46	-24.6%	58		-100%	230		-100%	46		-100%	61	46
Garfield Park	71	23	-67.6%	72		-100%	72		-100%	22		-100%	71	23
La Selva Beach	28	0	-100.0%	4		-100%	4		-100%	20		-100%	28	0
Live Oak	283	111	-60.8%	284		-100%	232		-100%	53		-100%	283	111
Scotts Valley	293	73	-75.1%	250		-100%	188		-100%	60		-100%	293	73
Outreach	121	48	-60.3%	320		-100%	95		-100%	40		-100%	121	48
TOTAL	2,162	1,034	-52.2%	2,221		-100%	1,855		-100%	822		-100%	2,162	1,034

HOURS OF PUBLIC INTERNET COMPUTER USE														
	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21
Aptos	4,354	0	-100.0%	4,095		-100%	3,367		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	4,354	0
Boulder Creek	880	0	-100.0%	826		-100%	536		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	880	0
Branciforte	1,388	0	-100.0%	1,366		-100%	1,134		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	1,388	0
Capitola	0	0	0.0%	0		#DIV/0!	0		#DIV/0!	0		#DIV/0!	0	0
Downtown	18,367	0	-100.0%	16,954		-100%	13,057		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	18,367	0
Felton	341	0	-100.0%	108		-100%	195		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	341	0
Garfield Park	1,253	0	-100.0%	900		-100%	756		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	1,253	0
La Selva Beach	121	0	-100.0%	0		#DIV/0!	0		#DIV/0!	0		#DIV/0!	121	0
Live Oak	4,183	0	-100.0%	3,489		-100%	2,937		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	4,183	0
Scotts Valley	2,283	0	-100.0%	1,976		-100%	1,626		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	2,283	0
TOTAL SYSTEM HRS	33,170	0	-100.0%	29,714		-100%	23,608		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	33,170	0

HOURS OF WIRELESS INTERNET SESSIONS														
	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21
Aptos	5,994	** 0	-100.0%	4435		-100%	4,692		-100%	1667		-100%	5,994	#VALUE!
Boulder Creek	1,816	0	-100.0%	1661		-100%	1,062		-100%	0		0%	1,816	0
Branciforte	2,154	0	-100.0%	2087		-100%	2,500		-100%	1218		-100%	2,154	0
Capitola	0	0	0.0%	0		0%	0		0%	0		0%	0	0
Downtown	9,823	0	-100.0%	7838		-100%	8,102		-100%	2922		-100%	9,823	0
Felton	1,233	0	-100.0%	586		-100%	1,294		-100%	1386		-100%	1,233	0
Garfield Park	1,442	0	-100.0%	1300		-100%	1,299		-100%	801		-100%	1,442	0
Headquarters	1,008	0	-100.0%	878		-100%	872		-100%	392		-100%	1,008	0
La Selva Beach	774	0	-100.0%	0		0%	0		0%	0		0%	774	0

Live Oak	3,691	0	-100.0%	3058		-100%	3,385		-100%	1571		-100%	3,691	0
Scotts Valley	5,576	0	-100.0%	4692		-100%	4,452		-100%	1868		-100%	5,576	0
TOTAL SYSTEM HRS	33,511	0	-100.0%	26,535		-100%	27,658		-100%	11,825		-100%	33,511	0

* some data was lost from September 2018, so these numbers are lower than actual.

**Data unavailable for the reporting period.

SESSIONS OF PUBLIC INTERNET USE														
	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21
Aptos	5,872	0	-100.0%	4,892		-100%	4,167		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	5,872	0
Boulder Creek	1,214	0	-100.0%	1,150		-100%	772		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	1,214	0
Branciforte	2,055	0	-100.0%	1,940		-100%	1,716		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	2,055	0
Capitola	0	0	0.0%	0		0%			0%	0		#DIV/0!	0	0
Downtown	18,580	0	-100.0%	16,346		-100%	13,038		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	18,580	0
Felton	562	0	-100.0%	195		-100%	402		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	562	0
Garfield Park	1,366	0	-100.0%	1,192		-100%	1,043		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	1,366	0
La Selva Beach	168	0	-100.0%	0		0%	0		0%	0		#DIV/0!	168	0
Live Oak	5,733	0	-100.0%	4,901		-100%	4,203		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	5,733	0
Scotts Valley	3,809	0	-100.0%	3,391		-100%	2,825		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	3,809	0
TOTAL SYSTEM HRS	39,359	0	-100.0%	34,007		-100%	28,166		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	39,359	0

NUMBER OF PUBLIC WIFI SESSIONS														
	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21
Aptos	30,262	0	-100.0%	20,131		-100%	18,447		-100%	7,783		-100%	30,262	0
Boulder Creek	6,027	0	-100.0%	4,936		-100%	3,258		-100%	0		0%	6,027	0
Branciforte	7,532	0	-100.0%	6,556		-100%	7,109		-100%	4,536		-100%	7,532	0
Capitola	0	0	0.0%	0		0%	0		0%	0		0%	0	0
Downtown	38,094	0	-100.0%	28,765		-100%	27,193		-100%	10,265		-100%	38,094	0
Felton	6,779	0	-100.0%	3,221		-100%	3,744		-100%	4,656		-100%	6,779	0
Garfield Park	4,863	0	-100.0%	4,546		-100%	4,500		-100%	2,766		-100%	4,863	0
Headquarters	3,711	0	-100.0%	2,896		-100%	2,726		-100%	1,282		-100%	3,711	0
La Selva Beach	2,455	0	-100.0%	0		0%	0		0%	0		0%	2,455	0
Live Oak	10,760	0	-100.0%	8,240		-100%	8,391		-100%	4,662		-100%	10,760	0
Scotts Valley	20,627	0	-100.0%	15,131		-100%	14,548		-100%	7,802		-100%	20,627	0
TOTAL SYSTEM HRS	131,110	0	-100.0%	94,422		-100%	89,916		-100%	43,752		-100%	131,110	0

* some data was lost from September 2018, so these numbers are lower than actual.

HOURS OF MEETING ROOM USE														
	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21
Aptos	437	0	-100.0%	447		-100%	468		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	437	0
Boulder Creek	150	0	-100.0%	261		-100%	4		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	150	0
Downtown	532	0	-100.0%	432		-100%	485		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	532	0
Felton	0	0	#DIV/0!	0		#DIV/0!	232		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	0	0
Scotts Valley	368	0	-100.0%	475		-100%	359		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	368	0
TOTAL HOURS	1,487	0	-100.0%	1,615		-100%	1,548		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	1,487	0

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS														
	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21
Aptos	84	0	-100.0%	150		-100%	111		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	84	0
Boulder Creek	37	0	-100.0%	47		-100%	10		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	37	0
Branciforte	49	0	-100.0%	86		-100%	65		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	49	0
Capitola	6	0	-100.0%	11		-100%	9		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	6	0
Downtown	163	0	-100.0%	206		-100%	204		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	163	0
Felton	6	0	-100.0%	1		-100%	25		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	6	0
Garfield Park	36	0	-100.0%	42		-100%	33		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	36	0
La Selva Beach	54	0	-100.0%	12		-100%	19		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	54	0
Live Oak	76	0	-100.0%	130		-100%	108		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	76	0
Scotts Valley	118	0	-100.0%	125		-100%	81		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	118	0
Outreach	26	58	123.1%	27		-100%	17		-100%	72		-100%	26	58
TOTAL	655	58	-91.1%	837		-100%	682		-100%	72		-100%	655	58

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE														
	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21	% Change	FY19/20	FY20/21
Aptos	1,002	0	-100.0%	2,178		-100%	1,192		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	1,002	0
Boulder Creek	224	0	-100.0%	276		-100%	121		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	224	0
Branciforte	793	0	-100.0%	1,028		-100%	739		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	793	0
Capitola	137	0	-100.0%	139		-100%	156		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	137	0
Downtown	1,978	0	-100.0%	2,253		-100%	1,742		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	1,978	0
Felton	125	0	-100.0%	10		-100%	138		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	125	0
Garfield Park	385	0	-100.0%	503		-100%	323		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	385	0
La Selva Beach	1,005	0	-100.0%	157		-100%	338		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	1,005	0
Live Oak	1,828	0	-100.0%	1,597		-100%	1,170		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	1,828	0
Scotts Valley	2,277	0	-100.0%	2,167		-100%	1,618		-100%	0		#DIV/0!	2,277	0
Outreach	717	628	-12.4%	748		-100%	467		-100%	2,268		-100%	717	628
TOTAL	10,471	628	-94.0%	11,056		-100%	8,004		-100%	2,268		-100%	10,471	628

Capitola Closure starting in May and June with a few offsite programs continuing
La Selva Beach Closure on September 1, 2019
Felton Closure on November 1, 2019

Felton Opening on February 22, 2020
Boulder Creek Closure on February 22, 2020
System-wide Closure on March 15, 2020 due to COVID-19

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



STAFF REPORT

DATE: December 3, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director
RE: 1st Quarter Financial Report

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Accept and File Financial Report for 1st Qtr. 2020-2021

DISCUSSION

The first quarter financial report covers July 1, 2020, through September 30, 2020.

All financial figures included in this report are unaudited.

Revenues

Total Revenue for this quarter: 31%

Sales Tax 33.2%

Maintenance of Effort 25.0%

Expenditures

Total actual expenditures for this quarter: 19.0%

Personnel Costs

Total Personnel costs for this quarter: 18.0%

Regular Full Time 18.7%

Part Time 15.8%

Attachments: 1st Quarter Financial Reports (Expenditure, Personnel and Revenue)

Report Prepared by: Kira Henifin
Principal Management Analyst

Reviewed and Forwarded by: Susan Nemitz, Library Director

Revenue Balances

Criteria: Summarize By = Report,Fund,Account; As Of = 9/30/2020; Period = 0,1..12; Fund = 951

Acct	Title	Year-To-Date Ado Budget	Year-To-Date Adjustments	Year-To-Date Adj Budget	Year-To-Date Actual	Bdgt. to Act. Variance	Pct. Spent
Fund 951 -- Library Joint Powers Authority							
41211	Sales and use tax	6,913,172.00	0.00	6,913,172.00	2,296,974.68	4,616,197.32	33.2%
43190	Federal grants - other	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
43210	State operating grants and contributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	0.0%
43310	Local operating grants and contributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	161,250.00	(161,250.00)	0.0%
43311	Maintenance of effort contributions	5,795,273.00	0.00	5,795,273.00	1,448,818.45	4,346,454.55	25.0%
43354	County of SC - reimbursements	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,567.00	(30,567.00)	0.0%
45131	Library fines	70,250.00	0.00	70,250.00	1,455.79	68,794.21	2.1%
46110	Pooled cash and investment interest	92,840.00	0.00	92,840.00	0.00	92,840.00	0.0%
46190	Interest earnings - other	17,610.00	0.00	17,610.00	3,235.67	14,374.33	18.4%
46303	Donations - library	13,100.00	0.00	13,100.00	0.00	13,100.00	0.0%
46309	Donations - library - Friends of the Lib	27,923.00	0.00	27,923.00	75,000.00	(47,077.00)	268.6%
46910	Miscellaneous operating revenue	8,500.00	0.00	8,500.00	0.00	8,500.00	0.0%
49105	From Workers' Compensation Fund	33,175.00	0.00	33,175.00	0.00	33,175.00	0.0%
49122	From Library Private Trust Fund	22,190.00	0.00	22,190.00	0.00	22,190.00	0.0%
Total Library Joint Powers Authority		<u>12,994,033.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>12,995,033.00</u>	<u>4,022,301.59</u>	<u>8,972,731.41</u>	
Total		<u>12,994,033.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>12,995,033.00</u>	<u>4,022,301.59</u>	<u>8,972,731.41</u>	

Expenditure Balances

Page 1 of 1

Criteria: Summarize By = Report,Account,Account; As Of = 9/30/2020; Period = 0,1..12; Activity = 36*; Account = 51*

Acct	Title	Year-To-Date Ado Budget	Year-To-Date Adjustments	Year-To-Date Adj Budget	Year-To-Date Actual	Year-To-Date Encumbrances	Bdgt. to Act. Variance	Pct. Spent
51110	Regular full time	6,062,493.00	0.00	6,062,493.00	1,135,126.41	0.00	4,927,366.59	18.7%
51111	Regular part time	1,105,344.00	0.00	1,105,344.00	175,018.46	0.00	930,325.54	15.8%
51114	Overtime	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	397.87	0.00	4,602.13	8.0%
51115	Termination pay	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,859.02	0.00	(11,859.02)	0.0%
51122	Temporary	713,000.00	0.00	713,000.00	3,825.78	0.00	709,174.22	0.5%
51130	Other pay	0.00	0.00	0.00	236.01	0.00	(236.01)	0.0%
51150	Vehicle-phone-data allowance	2,964.00	0.00	2,964.00	593.40	0.00	2,370.60	20.0%
51201	Retirement contribution	460,973.00	0.00	460,973.00	82,338.43	0.00	378,634.57	17.9%
51202	F.I.C.A.	99,960.00	0.00	99,960.00	778.61	0.00	99,181.39	0.8%
51203	PERS unfunded liability	1,137,607.00	0.00	1,137,607.00	202,151.44	0.00	935,455.56	17.8%
51210	Group health insurance	1,510,209.00	0.00	1,510,209.00	254,195.93	0.00	1,256,013.07	16.8%
51212	Group dental insurance	94,379.00	0.00	94,379.00	17,237.38	0.00	77,141.62	18.3%
51213	Vision insurance	16,033.00	0.00	16,033.00	2,843.52	0.00	13,189.48	17.7%
51214	Medicare insurance	100,571.00	0.00	100,571.00	18,597.41	0.00	81,973.59	18.5%
51215	Employee assistance program	4,152.00	0.00	4,152.00	824.10	0.00	3,327.90	19.8%
51220	Group life insurance	1,847.00	0.00	1,847.00	333.19	0.00	1,513.81	18.0%
51221	Disability insurance	79,098.00	0.00	79,098.00	7,678.26	0.00	71,419.74	9.7%
51222	SDI	30,260.00	0.00	30,260.00	5,383.77	0.00	24,876.23	17.8%
51230	Unemployment insurance	56,992.00	0.00	56,992.00	10,028.94	0.00	46,963.06	17.6%
51240	Workers' compensation	186,741.00	0.00	186,741.00	46,104.54	0.00	140,636.46	24.7%
Total		11,667,623.00	0.00	11,667,623.00	1,975,552.47	0.00	9,692,070.53	

Expenditure Balances

Page 1 of 2

Criteria: Summarize By = Report,Account,Account; As Of = 9/30/2020; Period = 0,1..12; Activity = 36*; Account = 52*,53*,54*,55*,56*,57*,58*,59*

Acct	Title	Year-To-Date Ado Budget	Year-To-Date Adjustments	Year-To-Date Adj Budget	Year-To-Date Actual	Year-To-Date Encumbrances	Bdgt. to Act. Variance	Pct. Spent
52131	Claims management services - outside	12,000.00	0.00	12,000.00	347.82	0.00	11,652.18	2.9%
52135	Financial services - outside	485,560.00	0.00	485,560.00	121,389.99	0.00	364,170.01	25.0%
52150	Merchant bank fees	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00	32.40	0.00	1,167.60	2.7%
52155	Courier services	2,410.00	516.45	2,926.45	373.32	2,543.13	10.00	99.7%
52199	Other professional & technical services	162,300.00	8,934.10	171,234.10	4,395.90	23,281.28	143,556.92	16.2%
52201	Water, sewer and refuse	74,460.00	0.00	74,460.00	9,349.91	3,755.80	61,354.29	17.6%
52202	Hazardous materials disposal	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.0%
52211	Janitorial services	335,625.00	0.00	335,625.00	37,434.82	280,833.70	17,356.48	94.8%
52223	Equip annual inventory charge - internal	4,690.00	0.00	4,690.00	0.00	0.00	4,690.00	0.0%
52226	Vehicle work order charges - internal	22,000.00	0.00	22,000.00	2,677.43	0.00	19,322.57	12.2%
52227	Vehicle fuel island charges - internal	16,485.00	0.00	16,485.00	1,353.01	0.00	15,131.99	8.2%
52240	Office equipment operation/maint	7,700.00	0.00	7,700.00	0.00	0.00	7,700.00	0.0%
52241	Vehicle maintenance costs - outside	6,500.00	0.00	6,500.00	0.00	0.00	6,500.00	0.0%
52244	Other equipment operation/maintenance	12,650.00	0.00	12,650.00	570.94	0.00	12,079.06	4.5%
52246	Building and facility o & m - outside	286,412.00	0.00	286,412.00	17,523.32	32,426.40	236,462.28	17.4%
52247	Landscaping maintenance services	43,800.00	0.00	43,800.00	1,951.80	0.00	41,848.20	4.5%
52248	Software maintenance services	472,329.00	0.00	472,329.00	38,552.66	0.00	433,776.34	8.2%
52249	Hardware maintenance services	43,000.00	0.00	43,000.00	0.00	0.00	43,000.00	0.0%
52261	Equipment, building and land rentals	240,452.00	0.00	240,452.00	8,154.00	3,548.00	228,750.00	4.9%
52269	Equipment lease-outside	18,000.00	0.00	18,000.00	3,606.72	16,293.28	(1,900.00)	110.6%
52302	Travel and meetings	11,200.00	0.00	11,200.00	0.00	0.00	11,200.00	0.0%
52304	Training	82,300.00	0.00	82,300.00	674.00	0.00	81,626.00	0.8%
52403	Telecommunications service - outside	221,385.00	0.00	221,385.00	(68,178.15)	44,047.73	245,515.42	(10.9%)
52932	Liability insurance/surety bonds-interna	37,442.00	0.00	37,442.00	9,360.00	0.00	28,082.00	25.0%
52933	Liability insurance/surety bonds-outside	68,000.00	0.00	68,000.00	54,964.00	0.00	13,036.00	80.8%
52960	Advertising	31,570.00	0.00	31,570.00	1,806.61	6,500.00	23,263.39	26.3%
52961	Dues and memberships	37,453.00	0.00	37,453.00	28,421.00	0.00	9,032.00	75.9%
52972	Printing and binding-outside	32,600.00	0.00	32,600.00	201.61	0.00	32,398.39	0.6%
53101	Postage charges	7,000.00	0.00	7,000.00	510.03	0.00	6,489.97	7.3%
53102	Office supplies	23,250.00	0.00	23,250.00	1,747.16	0.00	21,502.84	7.5%
53106	Books and periodicals	1,202,188.00	28,490.48	1,230,678.48	401,408.31	5,815.00	823,455.17	33.1%
53107	Books and periodicals-grants & donations	21,923.00	45,062.31	66,985.31	875.81	0.00	66,109.50	1.3%
53108	Safety clothing and equipment	13,910.00	0.00	13,910.00	9,188.38	0.00	4,721.62	66.1%
53109	Copier supplies	6,005.00	0.00	6,005.00	0.00	0.00	6,005.00	0.0%
53112	Library functional supplies	171,500.00	0.00	171,500.00	13,363.03	0.00	158,136.97	7.8%
53113	Janitorial supplies	24,750.00	0.00	24,750.00	1,476.13	0.00	23,273.87	6.0%
53311	Electricity	195,525.00	0.00	195,525.00	40,872.29	0.00	154,652.71	20.9%

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Expenditure Balances

Criteria: Summarize By = Report,Account,Account; As Of = 9/30/2020; Period = 0,1..12; Activity = 36*; Account = 52*,53*,54*,55*,56*,57*,58*,59*

Acct	Title	Year-To-Date Ado Budget	Year-To-Date Adjustments	Year-To-Date Adj Budget	Year-To-Date Actual	Year-To-Date Encumbrances	Bdgt. to Act. Variance	Pct. Spent
53312	Natural gas	27,550.00	0.00	27,550.00	1,039.37	0.00	26,510.63	3.8%
54990	Miscellaneous supplies and services	188,423.00	0.00	188,423.00	7,517.53	0.00	180,905.47	4.0%
56960	Loans and grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	175,000.00	0.00	(175,000.00)	0.0%
56995	Refunded fees and fines	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%
57401	Office furniture/equipment	18,000.00	0.00	18,000.00	0.00	0.00	18,000.00	0.0%
57409	Computer equipment	150,000.00	0.00	150,000.00	15,941.70	77,985.40	56,072.90	62.6%
57990	Other capital outlay	100,000.00	0.00	100,000.00	8,684.00	0.00	91,316.00	8.7%
Total		4,922,047.00	83,003.34	5,005,050.34	952,586.85	497,029.72	3,555,433.77	

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



STAFF REPORT

DATE: December 3, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director
RE: 1st Qtr. SCPL Incident Report

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Accept and File Incident Report for 1st Qtr. FY 2020-2021

DISCUSSION

The 1st quarter incident report articulates the number of incidents that have occurred system-wide, the categories or infractions in which the incidents occurred, and the number of suspensions issued.

Attachment: Incident Report for 1st Qtr. FY 2020-2021

Prepared by: Kira Henifin,
Principal Management Analyst

Reviewed and Forwarded by: Susan Nemitz Library Director

SCPL Incident Report by Branch - FY 20/21															
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals		
	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change
Aptos	21	19	-10%	18	0	-100%	8	0	-100%	8	0	-100%	55	19	-65.5%
Boulder Creek	3	0	-100%	13	0	-100%	7	0	-100%	0	0	-100%	23	0	-100.0%
Branciforte	15	16	7%	18	0	-100%	27	0	-100%	0	0	-100%	60	16	-73.3%
Capitola	N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed	
Downtown	68	5	-93%	74	0	-100%	57	0	-100%	29	0	-100%	228	5	-97.8%
Felton	N/A	0		N/A	Closed		1			N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed	
Garfield Park	7	3	-57%	2	0	-100%	8	0	-100%	6	0	-100%	23	3	-87.0%
La Selva Beach	N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed	
Live Oak	21	11	-48%	13	0	-100%	9	0	-100%	6	0	-100%	49	11	-77.6%
Scotts Valley	2	1	-50%	2	0	-100%	2	0	-100%	1	0	-100%	7	1	-85.7%
TOTAL	137	55	-60%	140	0	-100%	119	0	-100%	50	0	-100%	446	55	-87.7%

	Code of Conduct: 1. Interferes with a Comfortable & Welcoming Environment														
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals		
	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change
Aptos	2	0	-100%	3	0	-100%	1	0	-100%	1	0	-100%	7	0	-100.0%
Boulder Creek	1	0	-100%	3	0	-100%	2	0	-100%	0	0	-100%	6	0	-100.0%
Branciforte	6	1	-83%	1	0	-100%	3	0	-100%	0	0	-100%	10	1	-90.0%
Capitola	N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed				
Downtown	15	0	-100%	15	0	-100%	7	0	-100%	2	0	-100%	39	0	-100.0%
Felton	N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed				
Garfield Park	1	0	-100%	0	0		0	0		0	0		1	0	-100.0%
La Selva Beach	N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed				
Live Oak	4	1	-75%	1	0	-100%	1	0	-100%	0	0	-100%	6	1	-83.3%
Scotts Valley	0	0		0	0		2	0	-100%	0	0	-100%	2	0	-100.0%
TOTAL	29	2	-93%	23	0	-100%	16	0	-100%	3	0	-100%	71	2	-97.2%

* Branch Closures due to COVID-19, effective 3/14/20, resulted in significant reductions.

	Code of Conduct: 2. Interferes with Making Information Resources & Materials Accessible for All														
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals		
	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change
Aptos	0	0		2	0	-100%	0	0		2	0	-100%	4	0	-100.0%
Boulder Creek	2	0	-100%	4	0	-100%	3	0	-100%	0	0		9	0	-100.0%
Branciforte	4	4	0%	3	0	-100%	6	0	-100%	0	0		13	4	-69.2%
Capitola	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed				
Downtown	11	1	-91%	25	0	-100%	18	0	-100%	7	0	-100%	61	1	-98.4%
Felton	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed				
Garfield Park	2	0	-100%	1	0	-100%	0	0		0	0		3	0	-100.0%
La Selva Beach	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed				
Live Oak	2	0	-100%	7	0	-100%	1	0	-100%	0	0		10	0	-100.0%
Scotts Valley	2	0	-100%	0	0		1	0	-100%	0	0		3	0	-100.0%
TOTAL	23	5	-78%	42	0	-100%	29	0	-100%	9	0	-100%	103	5	-95.1%

	Code of Conduct: 3. Conduct that Does Not Ensure a Safe & Secure Environment														
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals		
	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change
Aptos	20	18	-10%	16	0	-100%	7	0	-100%	5	0	-100%	48	18	-62.5%
Boulder Creek	2	0	-100%	7	0	-100%	7	0	-100%	0	0	-100%	16	0	-100.0%
Branciforte	15	15	0%	14	0	-100%	25	0	-100%	12	0	-100%	66	15	-77.3%
Capitola	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed	
Downtown	64	1	-98%	62	0	-100%	42	0	-100%	28	0	-100%	196	1	-99.5%
Felton	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed	
Garfield Park	5	3	-40%	2	0	-100%	1	0	-100%	5	0	-100%	13	3	-76.9%
La Selva Beach	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed	
Live Oak	19	9	-53%	11	0	-100%	7	0	-100%	5	0	-100%	42	9	-78.6%
Scotts Valley	1	1	0%	1	0	-100%	1	0	-100%	1	0	-100%	4	1	-75.0%
TOTAL	126	47	-63%	113	0	-100%	90	0	-100%	56	0	-100%	385	47	-87.8%

* Branch Closures due to COVID-19, effective 3/14/20, resulted in significant reductions.

	Code of Conduct: 4. Conduct that Does Not Maintain a Healthy and Clean Environment														
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals		
	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change
Aptos	1	1	0%	4	0	-100%	1	0	-100%	1	0	-100%	7	1	-85.7%
Boulder Creek	0	0		5	0	-100%	3	0	-100%	0	0	-100%	8	0	-100.0%
Branciforte	2	5	150%	0	0		4	0	-100%	0	0	-100%	6	5	-16.7%
Capitola	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed	
Downtown	3	1	-67%	12	0	-100%	1	0	-100%	2	0	-100%	18	1	-94.4%
Felton	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed	
Garfield Park	4	0	-100%	0	0		7	0	-100%	1	0	-100%	12	0	-100.0%
La Selva Beach	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed	
Live Oak	2	3	50%	1	0	-100%	0	0		0	0		3	3	0.0%
Scotts Valley	0	0		1	0	-100%	1	0	-100%	0	0	-100%	2	0	-100.0%
TOTAL	12	10	-17%	23	0	-100%	17	0	-100%	4	0	-100%	56	10	-82.1%

Suspensions by Branch															
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals		
	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	% Change
Aptos	2	0	-100%	2	0	-100%	0	0		0	0		4	0	-100.0%
Boulder Creek	0	0		1	0	-100%	1	0	-100%	0	0	-100%	2	0	-100.0%
Branciforte	5	0	-100%	0	0		4	0	-100%	0	0		9	0	-100.0%
Capitola	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		N/A	Closed	
Downtown	17	1	-94%	27	0	-100%	13	0	-100%	0	0	-100%	57	1	-98.2%
Felton	0	0		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		N/A	Closed	
Garfield Park	4	0	-100%	0	0		0	0		0	0		4	0	-100.0%
La Selva Beach	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	
Live Oak	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	
Scotts Valley	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	
TOTAL	28	1	-96%	37	0	-100%	18	0	-100%	0	0	-100%	73	1	-98.6%

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



STAFF REPORT

DATE: December 3, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director
RE: 1st Quarter Workplan FY 2020/2021

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Accept and File Workplan for 1st Qtr. FY 2020/2021

DISCUSSION

Attached, please find the first quarter workplan. The fourth quarter plan runs from July through the end of September and the report attempts to capture the Library's work and programs/services that provided or supported a high impact in the community across five areas: 1. Learning 2. Digital Inclusion 3. Transformative Spaces 4. User Experience 5. Organizational Capacity.

Attachment: 1st Qtr. Workplan

Report Prepared by: Eric Howard, Assistant Director
 Assistant Director

Reviewed and Forwarded by: Susan Nemitz, Library Director

WORKPLAN: 1ST QUARTER 2020-2021

<p>1. LEARNING</p>	<p>Adult Programming: <i>Creative Aging and Life Skills</i></p> <p>Youth Programming: <i>Kindergarten Readiness</i> <i>Student Success</i> <i>Safe Afterschool</i> <i>School Partnerships</i></p> <p>Outreach: <i>Bookmobile</i> <i>Jails</i> <i>Kermit</i> <i>Events</i></p>		
<p>2. DIGITAL INCLUSION</p>	<p>Tools Resources Innovation</p>		
<p>3. TRANSFORMATIVE SPACES</p>	<table> <tr> <td data-bbox="524 1014 1019 1266"> <p>Aptos Boulder Creek Branciforte Capitola Downtown</p> </td><td data-bbox="1019 1014 1442 1266"> <p>Felton Garfield Park La Selva Beach Live Oak Scotts Valley</p> </td></tr> </table>	<p>Aptos Boulder Creek Branciforte Capitola Downtown</p>	<p>Felton Garfield Park La Selva Beach Live Oak Scotts Valley</p>
<p>Aptos Boulder Creek Branciforte Capitola Downtown</p>	<p>Felton Garfield Park La Selva Beach Live Oak Scotts Valley</p>		
<p>4. USER EXPERIENCE</p>	<p>Staffing Collections Convenience Security Localization</p>		
<p>5. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY</p>	<p>Administration Friends of the Library Volunteers Staff Training Succession Planning</p>		

1. Learning Accomplishments:

Quarter 1

ADULT

“This conversation was one of the best. It was great to have two experts join us to start the discussion and be available to respond to questions and comments. There are no simple answers to these questions and each solution has a consequence that may be problematic. So, an informed dialogue is what is most effective in reaching some consensus.”

- A patron who participated in the Library’s ongoing program, **Conversations for Change** and the topic was *Rethinking Policing*. 31 individuals participated in the August program. 27 individuals participated in September’s topic, *“Race, Racism and Anti-Racism.”*

- **The Community Resilience Project:** An ongoing Library series that started during the pandemic, and continues to draw participants on [Youtube](#).

July - “Gaining Ground Film Discussion” -

Discussion led by Michael Watkins, retired Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools, and County Supervisor Zach Friend. “Gaining Ground” is available in the library’s Kanopy free streaming movie collection. The film looks at grassroots neighborhood organizing in Boston working to prevent foreclosures and bring jobs and opportunities for young people to one of the city’s most diverse and economically challenged neighborhoods.

August - “Families and Distance Learning” -

Discussion panel with Dr. Faris Sabbah, Superintendent of Schools at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, psychologist Suzanne Nicholas, and Lauren Fein, LMFT with Santa Cruz County Children’s Behavioral Health.-

September - “Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Resilience” -

Discussion moderated by Professor Mike Rotkin. Panelists include: Professor of History Dr. Robert Strayer, Professor of Psychology Dr. Regina Longhout, Medical Anthropologist Dr. Nancy Chen, and Professor of Politics Dr. Matt Sparke.

Lifelong Learning:

- **Monthly Naturalist Night program**

Partnership with the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History. Fellow nature enthusiasts explore the biodiversity of Santa Cruz County. Each month, Marisa Gomez from the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History shares the stories of a specific Santa Cruz habitat as we develop our skills as naturalists. Each event features a presentation as well as an interactive session.

July - "Santa Cruz Habitats & History"

August - "Intertidal Zone"

September - "Redwoods"

-
- **Master Gardener**
"Planning and Planting the Fall/Winter Garden" with UCSC Chadwick Garden Manager Orin Martin
- **Weekly Trivia on Tap** (This program ended at the end of the quarter)
-
- **Summer Reading**
Created Digital Community Art Quilt - Participants submitted images on the theme of "Imagine Your Story" for inclusion in a digital display bringing together everyone's visual story.

Life Skills:

- **Wings Office Hours**
Volunteer Wings Homeless Advocates began holding weekly office hours outside of the Downtown Library providing free birth certificates and notary services for people experiencing homelessness.

Outreach:

- New People & Stories volunteer-facilitated tele-classes in the County jail facilities. The program brings literature to people who might not otherwise have access. Readings & discussions invite underserved participants to fresh understandings of themselves, of others, and of the world. Completion certificate counts toward early release.
- Developed deposit book collection for Juvenile Hall
- The Bookmobile continued to expand its route this quarter and provide deposit collections to different centers across the county.
- **Census 2020 Complete Count**
SCPL participated on the Santa Cruz County Complete Count Committee and went into high gear in advance of the coming Census response deadline. SCPL received grant funds of \$2,000 to support the outreach efforts to reach hard to count populations. With the combined crises of the pandemic and the fires, the Library's plans had to quickly pivot to more creative ways to reach these populations. The marketing/outreach team created stand up banners for display at branches in the windows, along with other posters posted in windows. The Library printed and distributed 5000 bilingual postcards urging people to respond to the census. These were handed out at branch curbside pickup locations. These postcards, along with census coloring sheets for children and other census materials were also distributed at summer lunch sites for children and at locations visited by the bookmobile. The Library distributed census materials to

over 1600 families who fit the hard to count category. The Library also participated in online promotions through our social media platforms.

- **National Voter registration Day**

SCPL participated in National Voter Registration Day (an annual event for the Library.) This year was different, since Library buildings were not open to the public and curbside service was in its infancy. The Library focused its promotions of this important day online through social media, informing the public about the different ways people could register to vote. The Library also made paper voter registration forms available at the branches offering curbside services.

Quarter 1

YOUTH

“Thank you so much for such an awesome program! It really got my daughter more interested and excited about reading. Now every time we go by the library downtown she asks to go get a book to read. “

- *Patron Feedback on The Library’s Summer Reading Program*

- **The Teen Volunteer to Career Expo** (co-sponsored by Your Future is Our Business) This was a one-of-a-kind virtual event exhibiting presenters, community organizations, and online resources to empower teens with community service and work-based learning opportunities. Teens heard from three local leaders who shared their real-life stories of how volunteering directed their career choices and how they too could find connection, inspiration, valuable skills and knowledge through volunteering. (Click [here](#) to view speakers.) Following the speakers, teens met with community organizations in breakout rooms to discover volunteer opportunities and work-based learning experiences that matched their interests. **STATS:** 114 event attendees; 90% of the teens found a volunteer opportunity at the Expo according to our closing on-line poll; Collaborated with 6 community partners

- **Virtual Class Visit**

The School Outreach team created Virtual Class Visit PowerPoint presentations for K-3, 4-6, Middle School and High School teachers to use. These presentations provide grade-appropriate overviews of our resources and also provide instructions on how to register for a card online.

- **Raising A Reader**

In September the Library piloted the Raising A Reader Curbside Pickup program at the Live Oak Branch. RAR provided each child with a personal blue library bag to keep and carry the books home in. Each blue bag included a letter explaining this process, information on curbside pickup at the library, and a library card application. The library issued cards to each child and created a bilingual

informational flyer explaining how curbside pickup would work. Families use the children's library cards to check out a bundle of 4 books to put in this blue bag. When they are finished, they return the library books to the same library and pick up another bundle of books.

- **Summer Reading**

935 Youth and 255 Adults participated in the Library's Virtual Summer Reading Program. Kids and families enjoyed a variety of virtual performances together on the Zoom platform. Tom Noddy's Bubble Magic, the final performance, had 369 Attendees. Due to all of the challenges families faced this summer, we extended the program through Aug 15. Joe Ferraro from Atlantis Fantasyworld also agreed to also extend the dates for accepting coupons. He gave away over 200 books to kids and teens who signed up for SRP.

The Library also provided pop-up Summer Reading Programming at 8 summer lunch sites with funding from the Lunch@the Library grant. This included:

- 8 free summer lunch sites, which provided for 1454 family visits
- 3 visits per site for a total of 24 distributions
- Distributed over 1400 craft kits & books
- All the families at these sites received information about the Summer Reading Program & performers, SCPL virtual programming & census information.
- The Library distributed 276 incentive books (379 earned) at curbside pickup, and 602 at summer lunch sites. The Library also distributed sidewalk chalk, colored paper, crayons, and stickers at curbside to add a bit of brightness for kids.

Close to 1000 families at 8 sites received gifts from the library. The Craft Box contained supplies for art and craft projects to do at home and included crayons, markers, scissors, pencils, glue, tape and paper. Books described easy to make STEM and art projects that used items most families could find at home. Everyone was invited to take part in Summer Reading 2020 - Imagine Your Story - and received book prizes for reading at least 5 hours. We also passed out construction paper to go along with the craft kits & bookmarks & stickers just for fun! Our program was very well received and it was fun and rewarding work for all involved.

- **Ongoing Programs**

The Youth Program Team offered a variety of Virtual Programs in English and Spanish to children and teens: Zoom Toddler Time, Preschool Story time, Cuéntame un Cuento. Recorded Storytimes including Stories for Bedtime, Tell Me A Story, Preschool Storytime, Music and Movement, Cuentame un Cuento, and Tales to Tails. STEAM offerings included Kids Create STEAM Programs and Cuentos y Experimentos on FB and Youtube,

1. Digital Inclusion Accomplishments:

Quarter 1

- The Library supported an adaption of its online “virtual” library card to physical cards for patrons seeking to request and pick up items at the curbside locations. This change provided a digital onramp for new patrons to the Santa Cruz Public Libraries.
- Procured 30 Chromebooks and 75 WiFi hotspots.
- The Library expanded its Wifi reach from the branches and advertised this change with banners at its locations.

3. Transformative Spaces Accomplishments:

Quarter 1

The Library continues to make progress on its construction projects.

- The concept design for Aptos was developed through the Aptos Design Committee with the work of Anderson Brule Architects.
- The concept design for the Live Oak Annex was developed by Noll & Tam and the County.

4. User Experience Accomplishments:

Quarter 1

“Thank you for the work you’ve done to provide curbside at Aptos. You are providing a life raft of normal for my daughter adrift in the sea of Covid. Keep up the good work!”

- *An email from a patron*

- The Library continued to evolve its curbside service during this time and introduce an outdoor Internet space at the Downtown library. It also continued to plan for limited indoor services at its other branches.
- The Library also updated its app in order to facilitate and speed up the patron experience at limited service locations.
- As of July 31st, 2020, Santa Cruz Public Libraries turned on auto-renewal in the Polaris ILS. Patrons with almost overdue items will have their eligible items renewed automatically for another full loan period.
- Closed two branches due to the CZU fires, while extending hold times, extending check out periods, and assuring patrons that the Library will waive all fines for any materials destroyed or damaged by the Lightning Complex Fires of 2020.

- Further extended hold times and checkout periods due to system wide closures due to poor air quality.
- Added 27,981 items to the library collection.
- Mailed 448 items to patrons who were unable to physically come to the library to check out their holds.
- Finalized networking, cameras and WAPS for the renovation at La Selva Beach.
- Completed final design for the new Capitola system for doors, security, cameras, fire and burglar alarms.
- Completed the set up for the Data Center backup gas generator, located at the Downtown Library.

5. *Organizational Capacity:*

Quarter 1

- The Santa Cruz City Manager granted the Library's request to fulfill a recommendation made by the Library's Equity Team to develop a special project for improving outreach to the Spanish speaking community. The Library assigned a librarian to be the project lead and begin by addressing the language barriers on the Library's website.
- Regional Manager, Heather Norquist presented some of the ways SCPL is supporting students, teachers and families as part of the CALL Academy module for the webinar on Supporting Students During COVID-19. CALL Academy is the statewide Niche Academy platform for public library staff in California only. Heather Norquist also stepped in for a Sunday shift at the EOC assisting fire evacuees with their hotel reservations via email and phone.
- Emerging Youth Programs and Emerging Adult Programs teams developed criteria for evaluating programs to help us determine what we can continue to offer under the new staffing model.



*Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eshoo
Eighteenth District
California*

October 29, 2020

Ms. Susan Nemitz, Library Director
Santa Cruz Public Library
224 Church Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060

Dear Ms. Nemitz,

I'm proud to inform you that I have nominated the Santa Cruz Public Library for the 2021 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The Library makes significant contributions to our community and is certainly deserving of this prestigious award.

The Santa Cruz Public Library is a great source of pride to me, and always know whenever I can be of assistance to you in your superb work, just let me know.

All my best,

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



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



STAFF REPORT

DATE: December 3, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director
RE: Library Sales Tax Revenue Update

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Accept and File Library Sales Tax Revenue Update for 1st Qtr. FY 2020-21

DISCUSSION

The Library Sales Tax Revenue Update covers the period from July 1 through September 30, 2020.

Attachments: 1st Qtr. FY 2020-21 Library Sales Tax Revenue Update

Report Prepared by: Nicole Coburn,
 Assistant County Administrative Officer

Reviewed and Forwarded by: Susan Nemitz, Library Director



County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 520, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073
831) 454-2100 • FAX: (831) 454-3420 • TDD/TTY: CALL 711
CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

November 5, 2020

TO: Each Member of the Board of Directors of the Library Financing Authority

LIBRARY SALES TAX REVENUE UPDATE

Dear Members of the Board of Directors:

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update on the Library Sales Tax actual receipts for the 1st quarter of the 2020-21 fiscal year.

In 2020-21, actual revenue from the Library Sales Tax is higher than the estimated and budgeted amount. For the 1st quarter of 2020-21, sales tax revenue totaled \$2,948,620, which is \$1,106,203 (60.0%) more than the 1st quarter estimate provided to the Authority in June. Due to strong online sales during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as businesses reopening, the Authority's sales tax consultant, HdL, provided an improved sales tax projection for the current fiscal year. In 2020-21, sales tax revenue is estimated to total \$10,183,338, which is \$1,259,551 (14.1%) more than the June estimate.

This office will provide an update in January when sales tax revenue for the 2nd quarter of 2020-21 is known. If you have any questions, please call me at 454-2100.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicole Coburn".
109559B37A034C9...

Nicole Coburn
Assistant County Administrative Officer

cc: Library Director, Santa Cruz City/County Library System
Library Director, Watsonville Library
County Administrative Officer
City Managers
Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector
Finance Director, City of Santa Cruz
Finance Director, City of Watsonville

SERVING THE COMMUNITY – WORKING FOR THE FUTURE

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



STAFF REPORT

DATE: December 3, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director
RE: Library Operational Recommendations under Covid-19

RECOMMENDATION

Review and Endorse Library Operation Recommendations under Covid-19

DISCUSSION

Service Model Next Steps

In October, SCPL began the process of transitioning from Curbside Service to Grab and Go Lobby Service in November 16, 2020. The Grab and Go Lobby Service is designed to be predominantly patron self-service freeing staff time to allow computer access services and longer public service hours. Self-check units and the holds will be relocated for patron use dependent upon location. Patrons will not have access to the stacks, restrooms, or established service desks. Staff will provide assistance in using the self-check units and in completing PACReg accounts as well as limiting access to the lobby area to the set number of individuals allowed. Lobby hours will be expanded by one hour to provide commuters an opportunity to utilize the library.

Computer Access will be offered at Downtown, Aptos, Felton, and Scotts Valley. Downtown computer access is being relocated to the interior of the building.

New staff supervisors and the service model were announced on October 5. An organization chart is attached for your information. Staff assignments and schedules are dictated by operational and locational needs along with established programs & classes. Effort was made to keep staff currently assigned to a particular branch at that location when possible. Some staff were scheduled to regularly work at multiple locations when providing direct public service. Staff assigned to public service shifts are scheduled on a Monday-Friday or Tuesday-Saturday schedule based on branch assignments and consist of 40/32 or 36/36 hour weekly schedules. Due to the need for robust staffing on days of public service to cover potential vacancies, no staff will be scheduled for Sundays. To the extent possible, staff are allowed to telecommute. Telecommute agreements are being developed with supervisors.

Staffing standards were developed for each public service activity and public service workloads by position.

The following is the schedule for the new service model. Grab and Go Lobby Service was piloted at Felton during the week of November 1 and expanded to all 5 branches on November 9. The expanded hours, staff schedule and assignment changes and computer access will begin on November 16.

Aptos: 25hrs Lobby Service and 20hrs Computer Access

Monday:	1-6p Lobby Service,	1-5p Computer Access
Tuesday:	1-6p Lobby Service,	1-5p Computer Access
Wednesday:	10a-3p Lobby Service,	10a-2p Computer Access
Thursday:	1-6p Lobby Service,	1-5p Computer Access
Friday:	12-5p Lobby Service,	12-4p Computer Access

Downtown: 30hrs Lobby Service and 20hrs Computer Access

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday:	1-6p Lobby Service,	1-5p Computer Access
Friday:	10a-3p Lobby Service,	10a-2p Computer Access
Saturday:	12-5p Lobby Service	

Felton: 25hrs Lobby and 20hrs Computer Access

Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday:	1-6p Lobby Service,	1-5p Computer Access
Friday:	10a-3p Lobby Service,	10a-2p Computer Access
Saturday:	12-5p Lobby Service,	12-4p Computer Access

Live Oak: 25hrs Lobby Service

Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday:	1-6p Lobby Service
Friday:	10a-3p Lobby Service
Saturday:	12-5p Lobby Service

Scotts Valley: 25hrs Lobby Service and 20hrs Computer Access

Monday:	1-6p Lobby Service,	1-5p Computer Access
Tuesday:	1-6p Lobby Service,	1-5p Computer Access
Wednesday:	10a-3p Lobby Service,	10a-2p Computer Access
Thursday:	1-6p Lobby Service,	1-5p Computer Access
Friday:	12-5p Lobby Service,	12-4p Computer Access

Telephone Information will be available 46 hours per week.

Monday-Thursday: 10a-6p
Friday-Saturday: 10a-5p

Buildings are being reconfigured in the following ways:

Aptos - Four desktop computers in the Children's Room will be used. Public access will be through an exterior door from the sidewalk directly into the room.

Downtown - Four desktop computers will be available in the open space in front of the service desk.

Felton- Four laptops will be provided in the Community Room. Public access will be through the patio gate.

Scotts Valley- Four desktop computers in the Commons will be used. Public access will be through the patio gate.

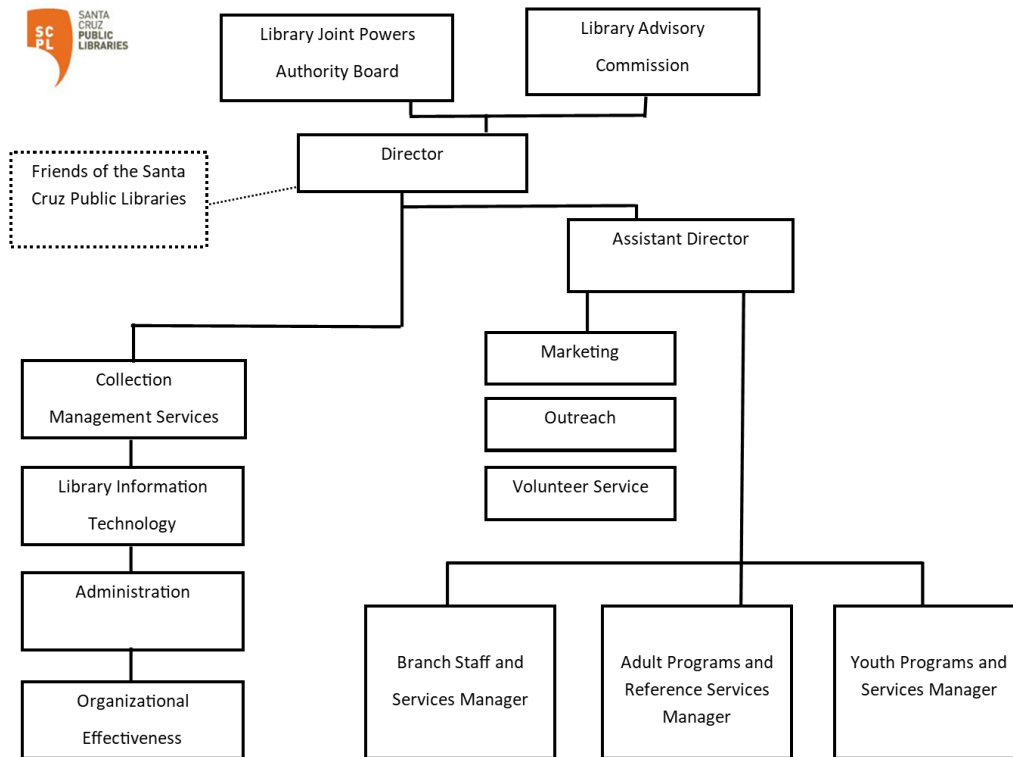
SCPL has been meeting regularly with the employee unions. The union has expressed concerns about employee workload and safety.

The grant resources for hotspots from the county underwent several bureaucratic hurdles. Funding has just been received. Chromebooks, Kindle readers and hotspots will be available for check out beginning in December.

Over the next several months, the Library will:

1. Resolve union issues of safety and workload
2. Solidify Grab and Go model of services
3. Implement computer/Wi-Fi checkout program
4. Empty Garfield Park and Branciforte for construction
5. Open La Selva Beach and Capitola Branch libraries
6. Close and empty the Aptos Branch Library
7. Plan the Downtown Branch

Attachment: Organization Chart



Updated: October 2020

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



STAFF REPORT

DATE: December 3, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan M. Nemitz, Library Director
RE: FY 2021 SCPL Budget Update #3

RECOMMENDATION

Approve an additional \$400,000 to the Santa Cruz Public Libraries for staffing and collections in anticipation of changes in service levels resulting from the remodeling and new constructions of branches.

BACKGROUND

The LJPB adopted the FY 20/21 Budget back in June with unanimous approval. The LJPB requested timely updates to the Board and Library Advisory Commission during this uncertain and unprecedented time.

DISCUSSION

A copy of the sales tax revenue update for FY2021 for the Library Financing Authority (LFA) is attached. The LFA allocates sales and property tax funds from all portions of the County excluding the City of Santa Cruz. It includes distributions to the City of Watsonville's Library system.

Actual sales tax is higher than estimated and budgeted for quarter 1 (+60%) by \$1,106,620.

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 totally an estimated \$800K.

Based upon the positive sales tax outlook, SCPL would like to request an additional \$350,000 in the FY2021 budget to hire temporary staff, primarily at the Library Assistant II level, to:

1. Empty Garfield Park and Branciforte branches for construction (December and January)
2. Open the La Selva Beach and Capitola Branch libraries (February and March)
3. Close and empty the Aptos Branch Library (April and May)

Without these resources, the current staffing level will likely require closing the Aptos Branch 1-2 months prior to opening Capitola so that the Aptos Staff can be used for the transition. This would leave the mid-County without services for two months. Regardless, the Aptos staff will be utilized in the newly open Capitola Branch Library. The Library also needs at least 1.5 FTE to open La Selva Beach and an additional 1.5 FTE to serve as floaters to replace staff on sick or vacation leave. The Library would also like to spend a portion of the resources (\$50,000) on collections.

The Library will continue to work with the labor unions to appropriately hire staff consistent with the most recent MOU's.

Attachments: Budget Adjustment Request
Library Sales Tax Revenue Update

City of Santa Cruz
BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUEST

PAGE 1 OF 1

<input type="radio"/> Council Approval	Resolution No.
<input type="radio"/> Successor Agency	Resolution No.
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Administrative Approval	

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Current Fiscal Year
<input type="radio"/> Prior Fiscal Year

TO: FINANCE DIRECTOR
FROM: SUSAN NEMITZ

DATE: 12/03/2020

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	REVENUE EDEN ACCOUNT TITLE	
951-36-51-0000-41211	Sales Tax	400,000
TOTAL REVENUE		400,000

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	EXPENDITURE EDEN ACCOUNT TITLE	
951-36-51-3601-51111	Regular Part Time	350,000
951-36-51-3601-53106	Books and Periodicals	50,000
p360814-100-2020-185	Project for Books and Periodicals	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		400,000

NET: \$ 0

Purpose:

The 1st Quarter tax sales numbers reported to the County of Santa Cruz are higher than expected. The Library is requesting increased personnel costs with some of these funds.

REQUESTED BY	DEPARTMENT HEAD APPROVAL	ACCOUNTING APPROVAL	FINANCE DIRECTOR APPROVAL	CITY MANAGER APPROVAL

Revised September 2012



County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 520, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073
831) 454-2100 • FAX: (831) 454-3420 • TDD/TTY: CALL 711
CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

November 5, 2020

TO: Each Member of the Board of Directors of the Library Financing Authority

LIBRARY SALES TAX REVENUE UPDATE

Dear Members of the Board of Directors:

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update on the Library Sales Tax actual receipts for the 1st quarter of the 2020-21 fiscal year.

In 2020-21, actual revenue from the Library Sales Tax is higher than the estimated and budgeted amount. For the 1st quarter of 2020-21, sales tax revenue totaled \$2,948,620, which is \$1,106,203 (60.0%) more than the 1st quarter estimate provided to the Authority in June. Due to strong online sales during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as businesses reopening, the Authority's sales tax consultant, HdL, provided an improved sales tax projection for the current fiscal year. In 2020-21, sales tax revenue is estimated to total \$10,183,338, which is \$1,259,551 (14.1%) more than the June estimate.

This office will provide an update in January when sales tax revenue for the 2nd quarter of 2020-21 is known. If you have any questions, please call me at 454-2100.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Nicole Coburn

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Nicole Coburn

Assistant County Administrative Officer

cc: Library Director, Santa Cruz City/County Library System
Library Director, Watsonville Library
County Administrative Officer
City Managers
Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector
Finance Director, City of Santa Cruz
Finance Director, City of Watsonville

SERVING THE COMMUNITY – WORKING FOR THE FUTURE

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



STAFF REPORT

DATE: December 3, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director
RE: Proposed Annual Meeting Schedule 2021

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Proposed Annual Meeting Schedule 2021

DISCUSSION

Attachment: Proposed Annual Meeting Schedule



2021 Meeting Dates

Virtual Meetings

LFFA (Libraries Facilities Financing Authority)

Immediately followed by the LJPA (Library Joint Powers Authority)

All are Thursdays

Meeting Date	Time
<u>February 4</u>	<u>9:00 am</u>
<u>March 4</u>	<u>6:00 pm</u>
<u>May 6</u>	<u>9:00 am</u>
<u>June 3</u>	<u>6:00 pm</u>
<u>August 5</u>	<u>9:00 am</u>
<u>October 7</u>	<u>6:00 pm</u>
<u>December 2</u>	<u>9:00 am</u>