

Don't Bury The Library Update #30

Three items in this update!

First, although the final election results for SC City Council will probably not be known for another couple of weeks, we have some good news to pass along.

We understand that the city attorney weighed in recently on the **library-garage project** in light of potential changes on the City Council. He corroborates the fact that Councilmember Mathews, who will stay on, has a conflict of interest, which would disqualify her from participating in any future council votes on this project. According to the city attorney any 3-3 votes on the project would basically bring the project to a standstill.

This would also give us the opportunity to convince the City Council of the advisability of it seriously revisiting a renovation and revitalization project of the existing library building, as we have supported for two years.

The reason the library-garage is not a “done-deal” is because *one council cannot tie the hands of future councils* like a charter amendment can, for example. The library-garage project was an issue in the election and there were clear positions staked out. Justin Cummings was one of several candidates who stated opposition to the project. There will presumably be future council votes on design contracts, land-use entitlements, CEQA, advertising bids, and construction award contracts. If the election results stay as they are as of 11/14 (see attached), Cummings will likely join Sandy Brown and Chris Krohn in opposing the project that passed through the previous council.

Member, City Council Santa Cruz: Vote for 3

35 Precincts 49,373 Voters

	Vote Count
NPP - DONNA MEYERS	7,966
NPP - JUSTIN CUMMINGS	7,765
NPP - GREG LARSON	6,997
NPP - RICHELLE NOROYAN	6,862
NPP - DREW GLOVER	6,791
NPP - CYNTHIA HAWTHORNE	4,325
NPP - ASHLEY SCONTRIANO	2,971
NPP - PHILIP CRAWFORD	2,392
NPP - PAIGE CONCANNON	2,188
NPP - DAVE LANE	1,037
WRITE-IN	79

Second, upon asking, we have learned from the City's Economic Development Department (EDD) that they are busy drafting a Request for Proposals (RFP) related to the library-garage project, which they hope to issue probably "*before month's end.*" It would be a "*small initial scope of work to define possible concepts.*" Apparently it will include multiple scenarios for housing, something that seems to us to be changing the project to more of a ***housing-parking-library project*** in order to get its parking garage to seem less like a parking garage. Interestingly, EDD suggests that the deadline for submissions to the RFP is likely to be "*within a month of release of the RFP.*"

They may be trying to squeak this first step through the last scheduled City Council meeting of this year (December 11), before the new Council takes over in January. It is quite unusual to have such a short time frame for submissions to government issued RFPs or RFQs, especially during the holiday month of December! One wonders ...

EDD's director also said that the "*library is interested in engaging a consultant to further the program and tenant improvement specifics*" and that EDD hopes "*to get started on that RFP as soon as possible.*"

Lastly, we announce that there are now nine of you on a recipient's list to receive updates about another questionable spending of Measure S funds on creating what will essentially be an eleventh branch, called the ***Live Oak Annex*** incorporated into the Simpkins Swim Center, one mile from the existing Live Oak Library. If anyone else wants to be on LO Annex e-updates, please reply to this email.

Sincerely,
On behalf of [Don't Bury The Library](#)
Jean Brocklebank (communications)
Judi Grunstra (librarian)
Michael Lewis (webmaster)