



Joint Powers Authority Governing Board

Rick DeGolia, Atherton (Vice Chair)
Julia Mates, Belmont (Chair)
Frank Kern, Brisbane
Mark Dinan, East Palo Alto
Art Kiesel, Foster City
Deborah Penrose, Half Moon Bay

Reuben Holober, Millbrae
Mary Bier, Pacifica
Rebecca Flynn, Portola Valley
Sara McDowell, San Carlos
Lisa Gauthier, San Mateo County
Dick Brown, Woodside

**San Mateo County Library Joint Powers Authority
Governing Board Agenda
June 16, 2025 8:15 a.m.**

Meetings of the Joint Powers Authority Governing Board will be held in-person and by teleconference pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(b). Members of the public are able to join this hybrid meeting remotely via the Zoom platform by using the link below or in person at a meeting location identified below.

<https://SMCL.zoom.us/j/99827964497?pwd=8PbJnaNdMbaDnQHvwHUnpcBJ7uhxu9.1>

Or Telephone: +1 669 900 6833 Meeting ID: 998 2796 4497 Password: 238327

Meeting Locations:

Atherton Town Council Chambers, 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027

Teleconference Location, 751 Kelly Street, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

Teleconference Location, 11136 Highway 140, El Portal, CA 95318

Teleconference Location, 75 Prospector Road, Aspen Highlands, CO 81611

Members of the public may email written public comments in advance of the meeting to Priscilla Bermudez at bermudez@smcl.org. Your email should include the specific agenda item on which you are commenting or note that your comment concerns an item not on the agenda. The Board will make reasonable efforts to read into the record all emails received before the meeting. All emailed written comments, regardless of when received, will be included in the administrative record.

In compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the County will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. If possible, please give three (3) business days advance notice of any accommodation needs by contacting Priscilla Bermudez at (650) 339-2247 and/or bermudez@smcl.org or call the California Relay Service (711).

If you believe the County has not met your rights under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact Anne-Marie Despain at (650) 684-0711 and/or despain@smcl.org or call the California Relay Service (711).

I. Call to Order	Action
II. Public Comment	Information
III. Consent Agenda	Action
A. Approval of the February 3, 2025 Minutes	
B. Proposed Uses of Restricted Library Funds	
C. Belmont Improvement Project	
D. Director's Report	
IV. Adoption of the FY 2025-26 Recommended Budget	Action
V. Election of Library JPA Governing Board Officers	Action
VI. Governing Board Members Announcements	Information
VII. Adjournment	Action

2025 Governing Board Meetings: September 15, November 3

2025 Operations Committee Meetings: September 9, October 28



San Mateo County Libraries Joint Powers Authority
Governing Board Meeting
Minutes of February 3, 2025

Board Members Present:

Rick DeGolia, Atherton
Julia Mates, Belmont (Vice Chair)
Frank Kern
Mark Dinan, East Palo Alto
Art Kiesel, Foster City
Deborah Penrose, Half Moon Bay
Reuben Holober, Millbrae
Mary Bier, Pacifica
Rebecca Flynn Portola Valley
Sara McDowell, San Carlos
Lisa Gauthier, San Mateo County
Dick Brown, Woodside

Staff Present:

Anne-Marie Despain
Carine Risley
Lindsey Freeland
Priscilla Bermudez

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- I. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Vice Chair Mates.
 - II. Public Comments. Member Penrose commended the library's efforts in supporting the immigrant community and encouraged continued collaboration with city officials to ensure a timely and supportive response if ICE were to enter the community.
 - III. New Member Welcome and Recognition of Outgoing Members. Vice Chair Mates welcomed new members, followed by introductions. Outgoing member and former Chair Karen Cunningham was recognized for her contributions, with members expressing gratitude for her service. Director Despain presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation for her six years on the Board.
 - IV. Special Election of the Governing Board Officers. Vice Chair Mates invited nominations from the floor for positions of Governing Board Chair and Vice Chair. Member Penrose nominated Vice Chair Mates for Chair; no other nominations were received. Vice Chair Mates nominated Member DeGolia for Vice Chair; no other nominations were received.

Motion: Approve Vice Chair Mates to serve as Governing Board Chair. Passed (MSP: Penrose/DeGolia). Motion: Approve Member DeGolia to serve as Governing Board Vice Chair. Passed (MSP: Mates/Holober).

- V. Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda included the Approval of the November 4, 2024 Minutes, the Financial Audit Report for FY 2023-24, Director's Report and Strategic Plan 2025-2030 Report.

Motion: Approve the Consent Agenda without changes. Passed (MSP: Brown/Penrose).

- VI. Bookmobile Purchase Approval. Deputy Director Risley presented the Bookmobile Purchase for approval. Members discussed the proposed hybrid bookmobile, with Member DeGolia supporting the recommendation and suggesting exploring Electric Fish, a San Carlos-based company specializing in high-speed compact charging units. Member Penrose inquired about the vehicle's transition from electric to diesel at 33 mph, noting that most travel would likely be at lower speeds. Member McDowell asked about the vehicle's lifespan, which Deputy Director Risley estimated at 10-20 years, and raised concerns about the cost, questioning prior estimates that diesel would be significantly cheaper than electric. Deputy Director Risley confirmed the costs align with state-wide bookmobile purchases and noted recent price escalations have stabilized. Members also discussed alternative funding sources, vehicle warranties, licensing requirements, and the possibility of purchasing a second vehicle. Chair Mates emphasized the importance of moving forward with the bookmobile to serve key communities while also exploring grants and future expansion. Member McDowell supported aggressively pursuing grant opportunities and requested renderings of proposed projects for future approval.

Motion: Approve the purchase of a new hybrid diesel bookmobile. Passed (MSP: Penrose/DeGolia).

- III. FY 2024-2025 Mid-Year Report. Financial Service Manager Freeland provided an overview of the FY 2024-25 Mid-Year Report. By year end, the Library is estimated to realize 108% of projected revenue and spend approximately 90% of budgeted expenditures. The Revenue variance of \$3.4M is primarily attributed to secured property taxes and Excess ERAF, which are expected to exceed budgeted amounts. Expenditure savings are estimated at \$5.2M, mainly due to salary and benefit savings from staffing vacancies as well as savings in services and supplies and fixed assets resulting from project delays that will carry forward to FY 2025-26. Looking ahead to the FY 2025-26 budget, property tax revenue is expected to grow by 4%, while unsecured property taxes and excess ERAF are expected to remain stable. Staff recommends adopting a strategy of allocating 50% of anticipated excess ERAF for ongoing expenses, aligning with San Mateo County's approach since 2011. The library expects approximately \$7 million in excess ERAF next year and has sufficient reserves to manage any unforeseen funding changes.

Member Bier inquired about the rationale behind using ERAF funds for ongoing expenses. Financial Services Manager Freeland explained that the policy, modeled after San Mateo County's practice, would help identify additional revenue, especially for expanding staff. Director Despain added that using 50% of ERAF for ongoing expenses is a conservative approach, with healthy reserves available to adapt if revenue fluctuates. Member Flynn asked about ongoing funding allocation, with Director Despain noting that

staffing needs are the highest priority, and recommendations would be aligned with feedback from the Library JPA and the strategic plan. Vice Chair DeGolia clarified that the new approach would allocate 50% of estimated ERAF for ongoing expenses, with the remaining 50% kept for one-time use. Discussion also touched on the library's financial projections, including a potential recession's impact on property values, with reserves providing a buffer. Financial Services Manager Freeland noted that a 4% increase in property taxes is projected for next year, and the library remains nimble to adjust as needed. Member Kiesel asked about treasury functions, which are handled by the County Treasurer. Chair Mates highlighted the importance of managing the library's healthy reserves responsibly to meet community service needs.


Motion: Accept the report and direct staff to move forward with development of the FY 2025-26 Recommended Budget. Passed (MSP: McDowell/Gauthier).

- VII. Governing Board Member Announcements. Member McDowell raised community concerns about delays in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program, particularly the long wait for the first book. Deputy Director Risley clarified that the delay is managed by the Dolly Parton Foundation, and staff will address concerns and work with the foundation to improve the process. Member Dinan announced efforts to raise funds for a new library project and encouraged support from those able to contribute. Member Holober suggested briefly highlighting positive news from the Director's report in future meetings. Vice Chair DeGolia praised the partnership with Familias Unidas, noting its success in improving children's reading engagement. Member Brown acknowledged the library's progress in its second language programs and senior services, specifically the successful senior workshops, and inquired about the potential for other libraries to adopt similar programs.

- VIII. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 9:24 a.m.



To: JPA Governing Board

From: Anne-Marie Despain, Director of Library Services 
Lindsey Freeland, Director of Finance and Performance

Date: June 10, 2025

Meeting: June 16, 2025

Re: Proposed Uses of Restricted Library Funds

Background

Section VI. D. of the San Mateo County Library JPA (Library JPA) Agreement states the following:

- 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, for each fiscal year the Library service revenue allocated to libraries in each member city shall not be less than the estimated library property tax revenue attributable to property located in that city. Subject to paragraph 2, below, in the event that the allocated library service revenue for a member city exceeds the amount required to maintain the minimum library service for that member, such excess funds shall, after deduction of any activities approved by the Governing Board for library related expenditures within that city, be restricted and held by the JPA for library related activities within that member city including but are not limited to, facility maintenance, facility remodeling or expansion, increased service hours, or increased material and equipment purchases, as mutually agreed by the Library JPA and the city council of that member city.*
- 2. In the fiscal year following the completion and opening of the new Atherton Library, excess funds, after deduction of any activities approved by the Governing Board for library related expenditures within a member city, shall be split 50%-50% between the Library JPA and the member city to which those excess funds are attributable.*

In accordance with this provision and as approved by the Library JPA Governing Board, at the end of each fiscal year, Library property tax funds in excess of the amount required to operate a community library, are distributed and held by the Library JPA in separate trust funds.

Discussion

At the September 2024 JPA Operations Committee and Governing Board meetings, total restricted Library property taxes held in trust accounts by the Library JPA and members as of June 2024 totaled \$14,545,764 as follows: \$2,408,744 for the Atherton Library;

\$193,177 for the Foster City Library; \$1,377,806 for the Portola Valley Library; \$4,205,160 for the San Carlos Library; and \$6,360,878 for the Woodside Library. Due to transfers and the accumulation of interest, these amounts have changed during the fiscal year. Trust fund balances as of June 2025 will be provided to the JPA after year-end close at the September 2025 board meetings.

At the September 2024 JPA Operations Committee and Governing Board meetings, FY 2024-25 proposed uses totaling \$2,688,603 we approved as follows: \$1,005,902 for the Atherton Library; \$40,700 for the Foster City Library; \$86,251 for the Portola Valley Library; \$1,377,300 for the San Carlos Library; and \$178,450 for the Woodside Library. In preparation for year-end close, the Town of Atherton, City of San Carlos, and Town of Woodside have requested approval of additional proposed uses for FY 2024-25.

The Town of Atherton is requesting additional proposed uses totaling \$275,000 for the following: \$100,000 for the design of pedestrian pathway; \$100,000 for additional facility improvements; \$15,000 to design parking stall improvements; and \$60,000 for the design of adding EV charging at the library. If approved, FY 2024-25 approved uses for the Atherton Library will total \$1,280,902. There are funds in the Atherton Library-held trust to cover most of this amount, and we are currently discussing with Town staff which uses will be reimbursed this fiscal year. Any variance will be paid from either Atherton-held excess funds or from excess funds identified at the end of FY 2024-25.

The City of San Carlos is requesting additional proposed uses totaling \$119,380 for additional costs of an existing project to upgrade the roof at the library for solar panel installation. If approved, FY 2024-25 approved uses for the San Carlos Library will total \$1,496,680. There are sufficient funds in the San Carlos Library-held trust to cover this amount.

The Town of Woodside is requesting additional proposed uses totaling \$44,280 for an emergency repair to a mainline at the library that was leaking. If approved, FY 2024-25 approved uses for the Woodside Library will total \$222,730. There are sufficient funds in the Woodside Library-held trust to cover this amount.

Fiscal Impact

Proposed uses of restricted Library JPA Funds in FY 2024-25 now total \$3,127,263. There are sufficient restricted Library JPA funds available to cover these requests.

Recommendation

Recommend JPA Governing Board approve the additional proposed use of restricted Library Funds in FY 2024-25 for the Atherton, San Carlos and Woodside Libraries. Operations Committee members present at the June 10, 2025 meeting concurred with this recommendation.



To: JPA Governing Board

From: Anne-Marie Despain, Director of Library Services 
Danae Ramirez, Deputy Director of Library Services

Date: June 10, 2025

Meeting: June 16, 2025

Re: Belmont Library Improvement Project Report

Background

The Belmont Library Improvement Project, included in the FY 2024-25 budget, is underway and expected to be completed next month. This report provides an update on the project and a summary of key activities.

The Belmont Library is a 20,230 sq. ft. single story facility, which was completed in April 2006. Flooded in natural light from floor to ceiling windows that overlook the heritage oaks of Belameda Park and its proximity to local schools including Carlmont High School, makes it a popular and well-loved destination. The building and three-acre land parcel are owned and maintained by the City of Belmont and operated by San Mateo County Libraries under the JPA Agreement.

In the 19 years since the library opened, it has become vital and well-loved destination. The library has seen regular upgrades over the years, including lighting improvements, energy efficiency projects, replacement of the automated material handling machine and updates of other equipment and furniture. With nearly two decades of heavy use and evolving community needs, more extensive interior and exterior improvements are now required.

In 2018, collaborative working sessions began to assess maintenance and space needs and explore the addition of a makerspace. Stakeholder input was provided by staff, residents, volunteers, Friends of the Library, and City representatives. Architect Mark Schatz, who designed the original library, helped evaluate the space and develop ideas aligned with the Library's Strategic Plan and Makerspace Master Plan, *Everyone Is A Maker*. A community survey highlighted strong interest in technology, digital arts, and traditional media. However, due to cost concerns, the initial plans were scaled back to focus on an interior refresh rather than a full construction project.

Discussion

Following the pandemic, the Library engaged Noll & Tam Architects to develop a new flooring layout and interior and exterior color schemes. New paint and flooring will give the already beautiful Belmont Library a refreshed, modern look while preserving its charm.

Scope of Work

The following scope of work was identified as the current Belmont Library Improvement Project and approved by the Belmont City Council on November 26, 2024:

- Repainting of all exterior and interior walls and replacement of flooring with an exciting color palate to complement and refresh library spaces
- Upgraded furniture, including new tables and chairs, study carrels and lounge seating for all ages
- Selective new shelving to attractively display library materials and allow flexibility for collection placement
- Completion of the Makerspace with cabinets and countertops that will showcase a variety of technology where users can create and innovate
- Updated power and data access throughout the building to adapt to constantly changing and emerging technologies
- Enhanced meeting rooms with new AV systems for presentations and video conferencing, wall-mounted magnetic glass boards and soundproofing with acoustic tiles
- Improved study rooms with display technology for meetings and collaborative learning
- Renovated staff workroom with ergonomic workstations, hybrid meeting space and a streamlined office layout

Financial support for the Belmont Library Improvement Project is provided by three main sources, including the City of Belmont, San Mateo County Libraries and the Friends of the Belmont Library. The City of Belmont has budgeted \$500,000 for the project and the Friends of the Belmont Library has committed \$125,000. San Mateo County Libraries expenditures are estimated to be \$805,000.

In addition, the family of John Christgau – a prominent teacher and educator who had nearly a dozen books published in his 84 years, and a 50-year resident of Belmont – donated just under \$20,000 in his honor to the Belmont Library in 2019 to be put toward the renovation effort and new makerspace.

As the facility owner, the City led the building improvements, which are now complete. The Library managed the removal of some cabinetry, shelving and wall-mounted items, and the purchase and installation of selected shelving, and equipment, and new furnishings. To minimize the impact to the community and allow multiple City and Library contractors to work as efficiently as possible, the project work required the closure of the Library for several months, beginning on March 20.

During the closure, we have offered programs in pop-up locations throughout the City including Barrett Community Center, Carlmont High School and Twin Pines Senior and Community Center. Staff are using this time to strengthen community partnerships and provide services outside of our walls. Routine library services such as hold pickups continue to be available at the San Carlos Library, neighboring libraries, and by mail.

We look forward to reopening and celebrating the reimagined Belmont Library this summer!

Strategic Plan Alignment

Goal: We listen to our community and create responsive services and spaces where everyone belongs; and Strategy: Enhance and update facilities to create inviting and flexible spaces.

Fiscal Impact

Financial support for the Belmont Library Improvement Project is provided by three main sources, including the City of Belmont, San Mateo County Libraries, and the Friends of the Belmont Library. In addition, a private donation of \$20,000 in honor of John Christgau will also support this project. The City of Belmont has budgeted \$500,000 for the project and the Friends of the Belmont Library have committed \$125,000. Allocations for Library expenditures for furniture, shelving and equipment were included in the FY 2024-25 Recommended Budget and approved by the JPA Governing Board on June 17, 2024. The total estimated cost is \$805,000. Due to some furniture delays, some costs will fall under the furniture allocation in the FY 2025-26 Recommended Budget.

Recommendation

Recommend Governing Board acceptance of the Belmont Library Improvement Project Report. Operations Committee members present at the June 10, 2025 meeting concurred with this recommendation.



To: JPA Governing Board
From: Anne-Marie Despain, Director of Library Services
Date: June 10, 2025
Meeting: June 16, 2025
Re: Director's Report

This report summarizes significant library operations and program activities that have occurred since the last meeting of the Governing Board. Services and activities are aligned with our Strategic Plan Goals.

We listen to our community and create responsive services and spaces where everyone belongs

Cultural Connections

We believe in the power of cultural programming to bring people together, honor shared heritage, and deepen connections across our vibrant communities. Rooted in a strong commitment to reflecting the diverse stories, traditions and perspectives of our neighbors, our events invite everyone to explore, learn and celebrate the rich tapestry of cultures that make our county extraordinary.

Black History Month – Grammy-nominated artist Andre Thierry brought the history and rhythms of Kreole and Zydeco music to life, while Soul 4Kidz delighted families with joyful renditions of classic children's songs. Singer Tiffany Austin shared the transformative power of song, and One led a village celebration rooted in connection and unity. Families explored social-emotional literacy through energizing drumming workshops and Grammy-nominated storyteller Diane Ferlatte captivated all ages with her masterfully woven tales. Over 800 community members joined us in this month-long celebration of culture, history and togetherness.



Women's History Month – Highlights included a compelling lecture series on the early 20th-century self-defense movement and its connection to the women's suffrage movement. Participants bridged past and present through hands-on self-defense seminars focused on awareness, boundary-setting and instinctive response. Programs spotlighting women's wellness—such as yoga dance, sound meditation, creative writing, mindfulness, and nutrition—offered inspiration and connection to more than 150 participants.



SWANA Heritage Month – Throughout April, storytelling, author talks and drumming workshops illuminated the traditions of Southwest Asian and North African cultures. From Wafa Shami’s engaging storytelling to Faisal Zedan’s dynamic pan-Arabic drumming workshop, attendees were immersed in vibrant cultural experiences that celebrated the beauty and depth of SWANA heritage. The month’s events created meaningful opportunities for dialogue, connection, and celebration—reinforcing the library’s commitment to prioritizing culturally relevant, community-focused and intergenerational programming.

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month – Our AAPI Heritage Month

celebrations engaged residents of all ages in honoring the rich cultures and lasting contributions of Asian and Pacific Islander communities. Families joined artist Justine Pon from [The Ponnerly](#)—whose work is inspired by Asian American food and culture—for a joyful Power Up Afternoons craft session, creating vibrant yarn pom-pom keychains that sparked creativity. Adults enjoyed programs that evoked meaningful memories, from youth to present day, including live music with Jasmin Nicole, a thought-provoking docuseries screening, and hands-on mosaic and ikebana workshops. Hundreds of community members took part in our AAPI-inspired events and programs, coming together in learning, creativity and celebration.



Financial Literacy Month

In April, we offered a robust series of virtual and in-person programs aimed at supporting community members in building financial confidence. More than 150 participants joined us for events exploring practical topics like budgeting, estate planning, homeownership, investing, and protecting against scams. Interest grew steadily throughout the nine-session virtual series, culminating in 65 reservations for “Estate Planning Basics” on May 14. In-person events also saw strong engagement, with the “Better-than-Nothing Estate Plan” workshop at Millbrae Library reaching full capacity with all 16 available spots filled. The consistently high turnout—especially among older adults—reflected a deep community interest in strengthening long-term financial well-being.

Supporting Future Citizens

San Mateo County Libraries continues to support aspiring U.S. citizens by offering welcoming, accessible classes in Belmont, East Palo Alto, Half Moon Bay, Millbrae, North Fair Oaks, Pacifica and online. From July 2024 through May 2025, our citizenship classes have served a total of 552 participants. Most of our classes are bilingual, and our Millbrae location offers instruction in Cantonese, helping to reduce language barriers that can make the process more challenging. One senior participant joined just three months before her citizenship exam with limited English and concerns about the writing portion—but she passed on her first try. A library staff member reflected, “Seeing her proudly hold her citizenship certificate was a truly moving moment and a powerful reminder that one’s strength, determination, and age should not be a barrier to applying for their citizenship.”

Adult Field Trips

This spring, we partnered with senior activity centers across the County to offer enriching field trips for library patrons aged 55 and older. From behind-the-scenes tours at the Marine Mammal Center to hands-on pie-making at Pie Ranch and explorations of Filoli's historic home and gardens, each trip offered opportunities to learn, connect, and build lasting memories.

Participants enjoyed discovering local history, exploring community resources, and forging new friendships along the way. On one recent trip, attendees even received Spanish-language books to expand their home libraries with topics like local travel, hiking, exercise, and wellness. To date, 380 older adults have taken part in sixteen field trips—and many have expressed how meaningful the experiences were, with hopes for even more opportunities to explore and connect in the future.



Atherton Library Children's Garden

We are pleased to share exciting progress on the [Children's Garden project](#). Following the Town Council's approval on February 19, we are now finalizing the design and preparing for review by the Planning Commission, anticipated by the end of May. Pending approval, the project will advance to the competitive bidding phase this summer, with a contractor recommendation to follow shortly thereafter.

We expect to break ground this fall and unveil the reimagined 6,500-square-foot garden this winter. This thoughtfully designed, nature-rich space aims to spark curiosity and create a strong connection with nature. Play is foundational to child development, through play, children explore language, build social skills, and develop critical thinking that supports early literacy and lifelong learning. The new children's garden will serve as a vibrant extension of the library's mission, where young minds can explore, imagine, and grow.

Article: [Atherton to construct children's nature space behind library](#), The Almanac, February 25, 2025

New East Palo Alto Library

The City of East Palo Alto and Library are making major strides toward a new, modern library that reflects the community's vision and needs. In early 2022, the City purchased 1.07 acres at 2474 Pulgas Avenue, next to the EPACenter arts facility, with the goal of building a new library. After selecting Noll & Tam Architects as the design partner, the City and Library launched the design project in May 2024 and began extensive community outreach over the summer.



Guided by community and stakeholder feedback, Noll & Tam developed an inspiring conceptual design and cost model for a two-story facility. On March 4, the City Council [approved the updated design](#)—marking a major milestone for this transformative project. The updated concept design will offer areas for quiet and active experiences, hands-on activities, literacy classes, technology exploration, and outdoor spaces that celebrate nature. This exciting new facility will strengthen community bonds and position the library as a vibrant public hub.



San Carlos Library Makerspace

Exciting progress is underway on the new makerspace at the San Carlos Library—an imaginative, hands-on environment where creativity, curiosity and collaboration can thrive.

This fall, we will present the project to the San Carlos City Council to seek approval to release a Request for Proposals (RFP), with a goal of selecting a contractor to start the work in January. This 1,000-square-foot space will be located on the library's second floor, providing ample room for a variety of creative activities and

learning experiences. Envisioned as a hub for learning and exploration, the makerspace will offer tools, technology, and a flexible space that empower users of all ages to experiment, create, and bring their ideas to life.

Article: [San Carlos Library's makerspace blueprints a future for local creativity](#), Scot Scoop, May 5, 2025

We connect people and build partnerships to achieve shared goals

Expanding Reading Through Partnerships

We're committed to expanding reading and learning opportunities beyond library walls. Through partnerships with more than 20 schools, youth programs and local organizations – including Pacifica's Boys & Girls Clubs and Millbrae's Rollins Gateway. We've placed library collections directly into the hands of our communities. These collaborations help remove barriers to access and introduce new audiences to the power of library resources, fostering deeper, more meaningful connections with reading, learning and each other.

Safety Net Services at the Library

Recognizing the diverse and evolving needs of our community, we are proud to partner with the [YMCA Community Resource Center](#) and [Coastside Hope](#) to ensure our spaces remain welcoming, inclusive, and supportive for all. Together, we have provided vital safety net services to 444 individuals and families between July and March, helping them navigate challenges related to housing, food security, utilities, and digital access.

At the Brisbane Library, 82 clients received personalized support, including rental and utility assistance, diaper supplies, and SNAP referrals for new mothers during critical life transitions. At the Half Moon Bay Library, Coastside Hope served 362 clients with resources ranging from food distribution and rental aid to immigration services and tax preparation. The partnership also allowed unhoused community members to access free transportation and explore vital resources, with participants expressing gratitude for essential tools like Clipper cards.

Spring Hunt in East Palo Alto

On April 11th, East Palo Alto Library united with local nonprofits to host a Spring Hunt event at the Little Blue House. Over 180 community members came together to celebrate the season and connect with resources.

Collaborating with [Canopy](#), [Communities Overcoming Relationship Abuse \(CORA\)](#), [Ecumenical Hunger Program \(EHP\)](#), and The Little Blue House helped make the day unforgettable.



Families enjoyed free books and enrolled children ages 0-5 in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which delivers books directly to homes. Canopy delighted attendees with fruit tree tastings and take-home trees for families to cultivate. CORA and EHP connected with families and shared information about the important services they provide. Children and their families enjoyed exploring the Little Blue House playground, drumming with Afro-Peruvian dance company Cunamacué, and learning how music supports early literacy. The library provided bilingual tips for early learning and showcased our Adult Literacy programs. Each child went home with a goodie bag and families left inspired and connected to helpful resources.

Articles: [East Palo Alto nonprofits unite for spring celebration](#), The Almanac, April 14, 2025
[Hopping into Easter with the Family Spring Hunt](#), M-A Chronicle, April 14, 2025

Healthy Relationships from the Start

This year, we deepened our collaboration with CORA (Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse) to reach twice as many families through our award-winning Healthy Relationships from the Start program. Designed for families with children ages 0-5, the eight-week series includes engaging take-home activities that encourage bonding, communication, and shared memories. A total of 396 families have participated this fiscal year, with many joining in-person mixers and celebration events to connect with others in their community. One participant shared, "We absolutely love the activities. We cannot be more grateful to live in a community that is so family-centered and has such wonderful and thoughtful resources like this. Super enriching for the kids and our family as a whole!" Additionally, as part of this year's expanded offerings, CORA led a new training for our Big Lift Inspiring Summers staff focused on modeling healthy relationships and setting positive boundaries with children.

We engage our communities through meaningful outreach and expanded access to resources

Library Night with the San Francisco Giants

We brought the energy and innovation of modern library services to a regional stage on Monday, April 7 at Library Night with the San Francisco Giants. Teaming up with fellow Bay Area libraries, we proudly showcased our dynamic offerings and the impact of the Foundation for San Mateo County Libraries.

Before the game, we anchored lively festivities at China Basin Park, inviting attendees to experience our Makermobile, unwind in our welcoming Reading Garden, and sign up for special-edition Giants library card. In just a few hours, we engaged with 410 community members and issued nearly 220 new library cards, creating lasting connections through moments of discovery and joy. In the stadium, the Giants amplified our message with a public service announcement that celebrated our innovative and transformative role in the community—reaching a crowd of 30,000 enthusiastic baseball fans.



County Fair Outreach

We're thrilled to be back at the San Mateo County Fair this year from Thursday, June 5 through Sunday, June 8. We'll be welcoming visitors with free giveaway books and a cozy reading garden—a perfect spot to relax and recharge. Our pop-up library will also offer hands-on maker activities for all ages, along with the eBook Stop, making it easy to explore our digital resources. We'll also be issuing commemorative SF Giants-themed library cards to highlight the many benefits of having a library card. The County Fair is a wonderful chance to connect with community organizations, discover local resources, and kick off a summer full of exciting library programs and events!



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

The magic of reading continues to grow as more and more children across San Mateo County enjoy Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. In May, with 6,912 children enrolled, our program achieved the fifth highest number of enrollees in the United States, out of more than 2,500 participating nationwide locations. Through this beloved program, families receive a free, high-quality book in the mail each month for children ages 0-5. More families are building early literacy and a lifelong love of books right from the start thanks to the Foundation for San Mateo County Libraries as our local host and partner. We also deeply appreciate the Friends of the Library groups, whose significant financial support makes this effort possible.

Virtual Reality

Since its inception in 2019, our Virtual Reality programs have revolutionized learning, pushing the boundaries beyond our physical libraries. With the introduction of new VR headsets, we are setting a new standard for delivering immersive educational experiences. These state-of-the-art devices offer untethered freedom and seamless co-operative play, making them more advanced than our previous models. Participants can now dive into diverse, dynamic environments, exploring activities such as virtual culinary arts, interactive sports, and 3D puzzle solving.

This service, offered at all libraries, enriches our mission to provide innovative and transformative learning opportunities. By expanding access to cutting-edge technology, we inspire creativity and foster a deeper engagement within our communities, paving the way for a vibrant future of continuous exploration and discovery.

We champion a culture of continuous growth and discovery for all



Summer Adventure 2025 and Inspiring Summers

We're excited to showcase two transformative programs that open doors to opportunity, spark curiosity and joyful learning in our communities.

Summer Adventure invites learners of all ages to read, explore and create in ways that inspire. Participants will receive free giveaway books, learning passports and opportunities to win great prizes, including a \$1,000 scholarship for one child or teen in every community. This year's unforgettable experience is brought to life with vibrant, commissioned artwork from local illustrator Adesuwa Ikechiuku, capturing the spirit of imagination and possibility.

Building on the excitement of Summer Adventure, we're also proud to deepen our impact through Big Lift Inspiring Summers, now entering its 10th year. Nearly 900 students in K-3rd grade will participate across eight camps, diving into literacy-rich activities, creative STEAM projects, and mindfulness practices. With visits from our Makermobile, field trips to local libraries and the return of Family Literacy events, children and families will be empowered to foster lifelong connections to reading and discovery. We're also thrilled to welcome new partner districts including Millbrae, Brisbane and Pacifica, bringing this impactful program to even more communities.

Paws for Tales

Paws for Tales is a beloved program that engages children ages 5 and up, to read aloud to specially trained therapy dogs, offering a welcoming space to build literacy skills. Research shows that children often feel less anxious and more confident when reading to animals, who provide judgment-free companionship. Available at all our 13 libraries, this warm and engaging program has delighted 800 children so far this year and is offered in partnership with the [Peninsula Humane Society](#). Young readers eagerly reserve sessions with calm, attentive canine companions to build reading confidence and fluency, and turn reading practice into a joyful, encouraging experience.



Article: [Paws for Tales is helping kids become stronger readers](#), The Almanac, March 3, 2025

Antonio López Named San Mateo County Poet Laureate

Former Mayor of East Palo Alto Antonio López has been appointed as San Mateo County's fifth Poet Laureate. A proud East Palo Alto native and award-winning poet and author of [Gentefication](#), Antonio uses poetry to elevate the voices of underrepresented communities and explore themes of immigration, identity and resilience.



As a former Library JPA Governing Board member and passionate advocate, he has played an important role in championing the essential role libraries play in building equity, fostering creativity, and empowering communities.

Press Release: [Antonio López Is the New San Mateo County Poet Laureate](#), April 9, 2025
Article: [Antonio López becomes SMC poet laureate](#), Redwood City Pulse, April 15, 2025

Pitch It! 2025

As part of our annual staff innovation fest, Pitch It! was held on May 22, and featured six staff presentations. Going strong for over a decade, this program gives Library Champions the opportunity to bring bold, creative ideas to life – whether it's a new program, service, or resource. Winning pitches receive up to \$5,000 in funding, along with support and mentoring from library leadership. Past winning ideas have included karaoke machines, hiking backpacks, book bikes, sewing machines, and period products.



Staff from across the organization gathered to cheer on colleagues and vote for their favorite pitch. Congratulations to Susan Verlander, Library Assistant at Administration for her winning proposal, *Level Up*— a program that offers workshops and tutoring to help English learners and their families prepare for and pass the ELPAC exam.



Congratulations to Greta Ruttenberg, Library Assistant at San Carlos Library, and Dorian Wu, Library Assistant at Belmont Library, for their idea *Book Club in a Bag*. Their winning pitch proposed circulating ready-to-go kits with books and discussion guides to support community-led book clubs.

A huge thank you to all of our talented staff who stepped up to pitch their ideas. Their creativity, passion and commitment to serving our communities truly shined!

Employee Service Awards

Since March, the County recognized six employees for reaching significant milestones in their years of service. Congratulations to Atherton Librarian Lynne Fetter, East Palo Alto Library Assistant Nineti Fanua, Portola Valley Library Assistant Rachael Hood, and Millbrae Library Assistant Susan Hoff for 10 years of dedicated service.

We also celebrate Accountant Winnie Kuang-Todd and Foster City Senior Librarian Amy Selmi for reaching and incredible 20 years of service.

We are grateful for their many years of commitment and the invaluable contributions they continue to make to San Mateo County Libraries!

Personnel News

We are excited to share the following personnel announcements:

Meri Fern Ancic has accepted the position of Librarian in our Programming and Outreach Division. Meri joins us from Santa Cruz Public Libraries where she worked as a Library Information Specialist. She holds a Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Library Science from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) from Valdosta State University.

Amberlynn Auelua has accepted the position of Payroll Personnel Coordinator in our Human Resources division. Amberlynn previously worked at the Berkeley Unified School District as a Human Resources Technician. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from San Francisco State University and is currently pursuing her master's degree in human resources management at the University of Southern California.

Isabella Bortolus has accepted a promotion to the position of Librarian at the Portola Valley Library. Isabella previously served as a Library Assistant at the Portola Valley Library. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of California, Santa Barbara and an MLIS from San José State University.

Daniela Castrillo has accepted a promotion to the position of Librarian at the Belmont Library. Daniela previously worked as a Library Assistant at the North Fair Oaks Library. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in World Languages from Lewis & Clark College and an MLIS from San José State University. Daniela is bilingual in Spanish.

Stefanie Jacinto Deo has accepted the position of Data and Performance Management Analyst in our Finance division. Stefanie joins us from GoFundMe, where she worked as a Data Scientist. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Ateneo de Manila University and a master's degree in statistics from San Jose State University.

Stefania Diaz has accepted the position of Community Program Specialist at the Half Moon Bay Library. Stefania comes to us from Winter Consulting, where she worked as a Deputy Engagement Manager. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science from San Jose State University and is bilingual in Spanish.

Carbelle Imperial, Library Assistant at the Pacifica Libraries, retired effective February 28. Carbelle worked for San Mateo County Libraries for more than 18 years and made significant contributions to technology services, including her leadership in the Personalized Tech Help program and active involvement in outreach and systemwide initiatives.

Salina Yu Kwok has accepted a promotion to the position of Librarian at the Belmont Library. Salina previously served as a Community Technology Specialist at the Belmont Library. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of California, Santa Cruz and an MLIS from San José State University. Salina is bilingual in Mandarin.

Peter Newson has accepted the position of Library Assistant at the Half Moon Bay Library. Peter worked as an Extra Help Library Assistant at the San Carlos Library before his most recent role in IT where he helped get the Makermobile out to our communities. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics from Sonoma State University.

Marissa Premenko has accepted the position of Library Assistant at the San Carlos Library. Marissa previously worked as an Extra Help Library Assistant at the Brisbane Library. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Child and Adolescent Development from San Francisco State University.

Sneha Sunder has accepted the position of Library Assistant at the Foster City Library. Sneha previously worked as an Extra Help Library Assistant at the Atherton Library. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Literature, Political Science, and Mass Communication from Osmania University and a Master of Arts in Advertising and Marketing from the University of Leeds.

Jamie Westfold has accepted a promotion to the position of Librarian at the Belmont Library. Jamie previously served as a Library Assistant at the Woodside Library. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Pre and Early Modern Literature from the University of California, Santa Cruz and an MLIS from San José State University.

Sandy Wee, Access Services Division Manager, retired effective March 28. Sandy worked in the library profession for 33 years, including nearly 28 years with San Mateo County Libraries. She made lasting impacts through her leadership in access services, innovation in collections and programs, and national contributions to the library field through her work with ALA and APALA.

Congratulations to our retirees, staff and new hires! We are grateful for their continued dedication to our mission and the communities we serve.

State Library News

The California State Library received formal notice from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) that, effective April 1, 2025, the federal grants awarded under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) for the 2024–25 fiscal year have been terminated. This decision may significantly impact statewide library services unless funding is restored or replaced. Without alternative support, key programs and resources—including public access to the New York Times and educational tools, literacy and volunteer support services, staff training opportunities, and preservation and digitization initiatives—are slated for discontinuation in 2025–26.

San Mateo County Libraries has received an average of \$100,000 from these federal and state grant over the last seven years. The State Library recognized the uncertainty this creates and is committed to advocating for solutions to sustain these vital services.

Press Release: [California State Library Receives Notice of Termination of Federal Grant by IMLS](#)

Libraries in the News

- [Libraries planting ideas for healthy living](#), Coastside News, March 7, 2025
- [How will cuts affect Bay Area libraries?](#), Daily Journal, April 1, 2025
- [San Mateo County Libraries encourage community engagement](#), The Almanac, April 6, 2025
- [Two New Documentaries Highlight Anti-Censorship Activism](#), Publishers Weekly, April 22, 2025
- [How Libraries Are Faring Under the Trump Administration Amid Detrimental Funding Cuts](#), TIME, April 26, 2025
- [10 Ways Public Libraries Make Our Lives Better](#), PBS, April 28, 2025
- [Trump targets California libraries for cuts](#), Los Angeles Times, April 30, 2025
- [Judge temporarily blocks dismantling of library agency](#), Associated Press, May 2, 2025
- [Trump administration praised 'life-saving' naloxone, then proposed cuts](#), Washington Post, May 2, 2025
- [California library funding saved by federal judge](#), SF Chronicle, May 7, 2025
- [Bay Area library visits have sharply declined. But not in this tranquil suburb](#), SF Chronicle, June 6, 2025



To: JPA Governing Board

From: Anne-Marie Despain, Director of Library Services 
Lindsey Freeland, Director of Finance and Performance

Date: June 10, 2025

Meeting: June 16, 2025

Re: Adoption of the FY 2025-26 Recommended Budget

Background

San Mateo County Libraries is a Joint Powers Authority governed by a board consisting of representatives from each member entity, including the cities of Atherton, Belmont, Brisbane, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, Millbrae, Pacifica, Portola Valley, San Carlos, Woodside, and the unincorporated areas of San Mateo County. Oversight responsibility, the ability to conduct independent financial affairs, approve budgets, sign contracts, and otherwise influence operations and account for fiscal matters are exercised by the Library JPA Governing Board. The budget is legally enacted through passage of a motion during a Governing Board meeting, followed by approval from the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.

The San Mateo County Libraries budget process involves the distribution of resources and services that meet performance objectives as identified by library staff, the Operations Committee and the Governing Board. Funds are appropriated on an annual basis as adopted by the Library JPA Governing Board. The budget serves as the annual financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications tool which strives to provide the best and most relevant information in an easily understandable format.

The table below outlines activities associated with the budget process:

Budget Process Key Dates	
December	Budget Development Begins
February	Mid-Year Report is Submitted to the JPA Governing Board
May	Recommended Budget is Submitted to the JPA Governing Board
June	Recommended Budget is Adopted by the JPA Governing Board
September	Final Adopted Budget is Approved by the JPA Governing Board
September	Final Adopted Budget is Accepted by the County Board of Supervisors

The FY 2025-26 Recommended Budget was presented to the Operations Committee and distributed to the Governing Board on May 13. The presentation provided an overview of significant current year accomplishments and performance data, and detailed proposed revenues and expenditures designed to achieve budget priorities and projects that are aligned with Strategic Plan goals. The Library JPA meetings in June seek adoption of the FY 2025-26 Recommended Budget.

Discussion

FY 2025-26 Budget Overview

The proposed FY 2025-26 Recommended Budget is balanced and demonstrates that our libraries are well positioned to operate within available resources now and into the foreseeable future.

Total Sources and Total Requirements in the FY 2025-26 Recommended Budget are \$92,163,562. Total Revenue is \$46,178,540 and Net Appropriations, or the total operating budget, is \$54,270,419. Salaries and benefits comprise our largest expense and total \$29,500,704, representing 54% of the total operating budget. The budget sets Operating Reserves at \$5,863,392 and Capital Reserves at \$32,029,751, in compliance with the JPA Fund Balance Policy.

FY 2025-26 Recommended Budget Priorities

Following the completion of our new Strategic Plan 2025-2030, the Recommended Budget works to set priorities and provide allocations responsive to the feedback and input we received during our community engagement efforts. The Recommended Budget also continues to reflect many of the investments made in recent years to increase and expand our services and programs.

The following priorities will be continued and implemented this year:

- Implement our new strategic plan and respond to the priorities identified through community and stakeholder outreach and engagement efforts.
- Reach more community members through intentional outreach and marketing efforts.
- Prioritize cultural programming in our libraries to ensure everyone feels welcome and represented in our spaces.
- Elevate adult and youth literacy efforts and develop responsive programs to empower and cultivate a community of learners.
- Establish new and deepen existing community partnerships to expand and enhance supportive services.
- Increase access to technology and hands-on learning to advance digital literacy.

- Create and update libraries to include vibrant, welcoming spaces that inspire creativity, collaboration, and exploration.
- Develop and implement performance metrics and system targets to track progress and inform ongoing improvements.
- Support the well-being and growth of our library champions and amplify their talents.

Key projects for FY 2025-26 include constructing a new makerspace at the San Carlos Library; purchasing assets to enhance outreach efforts; installing privacy pods in our libraries; exploring artificial intelligence service applications; establishing digital literacy hubs; and providing reading tutoring and homework help. Nine new positions are also recommended. These new positions will bolster our ability to implement our new strategic plan goals by providing strategic leadership overseeing partnerships and outreach, supporting expanded projects and upkeep at library facilities, strengthening public service operations, and increasing our capacity to support expanding human resources and business needs.

Fiscal Impact

The proposed budget for FY 2025-26 is \$92,163,562. Net Appropriations total \$54,270,419. Reserves total \$37,893,143 and are in compliance with the Fund Balance Policy.

Recommendation

Recommend JPA Governing Board approve the FY 2025-26 Recommended Budget and Fund Balance Policy. Operations Committee members present at the June 10, 2025 meeting concurred with this recommendation.

Attachment

1. Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Recommended Budget
2. Fund Balance Policy



San Mateo
County
Libraries



Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Recommended Budget

Overview

San Mateo County Libraries are incomparable destinations for learning and growth. Each of our 13 libraries is part of a larger family offering worlds of discovery. Through innovative outreach and mobile services, enriching experiences are also delivered beyond our library buildings.

We host thousands of events each year, curating programming that provides high-quality learning experiences. We are readers and educators at our core, a library tradition we will always embrace as champions of literacy and exploration at every stage of life.

Our physical and digital collections are always growing. We are proud to connect our communities to a robust collection of books, music, and movies as well as online resources, classes and technology.

As one of the largest providers of free Internet access in the county, all our libraries offer wireless service, WiFi hotspots and laptops for checkout, and hundreds of public computers available for use.

San Mateo County Libraries Strategic Plan 2025-2030, developed through a year-long effort to ensure robust, thorough, and broad-based community engagement, reflects our commitment to evolving alongside our communities, building on existing strengths while identifying areas for growth.



Our Vision: Where community grows and thrives

Our Mission: Together, we build meaningful connections and inspire lifelong curiosity

History and Governance

San Mateo County Libraries was established by the Board of Supervisors in 1912 under the authority of the California County Free Library Law of 1911. The underlying legislation supporting County Free Public Libraries explicitly provides for participation in the levy of a tax for library purposes. Approximately 273,000 people live within the boundaries of our legal taxing district which covers 351 square miles.

In 1999, the Library Joint Powers Authority was established. The Library JPA is a separate, independent entity with its own Governing Board, consisting of elected officials from each member. An Operations Committee composed of city and county leaders from each member also provides guidance.

The Library JPA is comprised of the cities of Atherton, Belmont, Brisbane, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, Millbrae, Pacifica, Portola Valley, San Carlos, Woodside and the unincorporated areas of the county.

We are able to deliver high quality library services in a cost-effective and efficient manner through careful distribution of resources. Internal economies of scale are achieved because support activities are centralized and shared. This reduces duplication and enables resources to be maximized and directed toward service to the public.

San Mateo County Libraries has a long and rich history of providing vital library services to our communities and a commitment to exceptional public services which endures to this day.

Demographics

Our communities comprise a rich diversity of individuals that our services and collections embrace and support. Our talented staff and wonderful volunteers create a welcoming atmosphere that inspires and includes all.

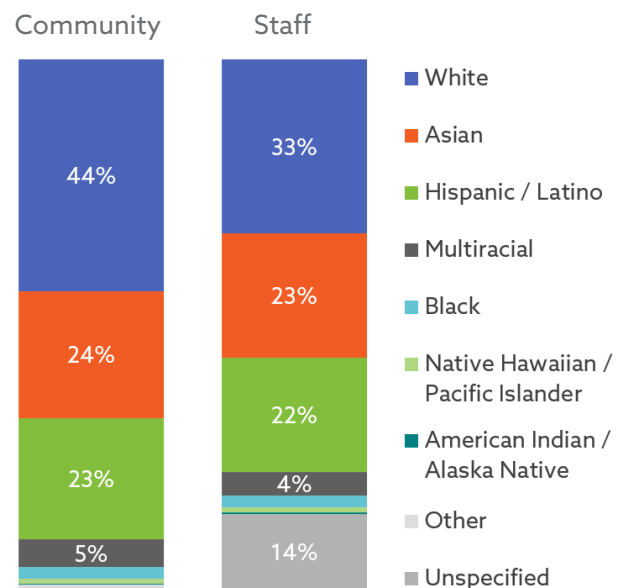
273,370 people live in our service area

23% are enrolled in school, **44%** of whom are in grades K-8

32% are 55 or older, **18%** are 65 or older

At home, **16%** of our community speak Spanish, **8%** speak Chinese and another **15%** speak another language other than English

245,111 people have library cards



Service area demographics from U.S. Census Bureau and California State Library

A photograph of a woman and a young girl sitting outdoors. The woman, on the left, has dark hair tied back and is wearing a dark blue zip-up jacket. She is smiling warmly at the girl. The girl, on the right, has dark hair and is wearing a green jacket with a car pattern. She is holding an open book and looking at it with a smile. The background is a soft-focus green field.

Strategic Plan

Shaped through community engagement, our new 2025-2030 Strategic Plan is designed to meet evolving community needs and create lasting impact.

Vision

Where community grows and thrives

Strategic Goals

We listen to our community and create responsive services and spaces where everyone belongs

- Actively reach out to our communities to ensure they are heard
- Prioritize culturally relevant, community-focused, and intergenerational programming
- Ensure staff, collections, programs, and library spaces reflect our communities
- Enhance and update facilities to create inviting and flexible spaces
- Offer fun, free, and joyful opportunities that inspire and uplift

We connect people and build partnerships to achieve shared goals

- Align our efforts with the needs and aspirations of our communities
- Build partnerships that bridge community needs and library offerings
- Create opportunities to bring people together to strengthen connections
- Leverage resources in inventive ways to help our communities flourish
- Communicate an inspiring vision and the library's story of impact

Mission

Together, we build meaningful connections and inspire lifelong curiosity

We champion a culture of continuous growth and discovery for all

- Engage children, teens, adults, and seniors in high-quality, research-informed experiences
- Sustain our strong literacy initiatives with a dedicated focus on low literacy and English-language learners
- Prioritize digital literacy by ensuring our communities have access to a variety of technologies, reliable internet, and essential digital skills
- Champion the freedom to read and explore a rich diversity of information, ideas, and perspectives
- Support the growth and well-being of our staff

We engage our communities through meaningful outreach and expanded access to resources

- Strengthen organizational capacity and prioritize our work and resources to enhance outreach efforts
- Connect community members to library experiences in ways that best meet their needs
- Provide a wide range of services and access points that extend beyond our buildings
- Utilize a variety of communication platforms, including multimedia and language resources, to share library programs and services



Accomplishments

Our achievements this year reflect a shared commitment to the communities that inspire and drive our work.

Strategic Outreach



- Shaped by extensive community and stakeholder input, our new 2025-2030 Strategic Plan was completed. Developed over the course of the year and informed by 3,500 community surveys, 195 staff participants, 30 stakeholder interviews and five focus groups, the plan reflects a shared vision grounded in our core goals to listen, connect, discover and engage. Some key findings from our community engagement efforts include a high interest in more cultural programming, technology classes, especially for Spanish speakers, and additional educational supports for youth. This exciting new plan for the future not only guides the organization's work but also strengthens our connection with the people we serve.

"The library is the heart of the community—from voting to free snacks after school, to the makerspace, the sewing room and the children's story hours. I love how much the library staff care and all the community events hosted there."

– Library Patron

- We teamed up with the San Francisco Giants and the Foundation for San Mateo County Libraries to host our first Library Night at Oracle Park, giving out 220 limited edition Giants-themed library cards to new and existing patrons. Alongside fellow Bay Area libraries, we co-hosted a free pre-game community festival that brought together baseball and library fans. More than 400 attendees explored our Makermobile, browsed eBooks and enjoyed hands-on maker demos and giveaways—all celebrating the power of curiosity, learning and community. Our public service announcement about all that libraries offer played in front of more than 30,000 fans during the game's second inning.



"I love my library because it's always fun."

– Library Patron



"I recently spotted the Bookmobile on the coast—super that this exists."

– Library Patron

- Our impact reaches far beyond library walls. Through outreach at partner organizations, farmers markets, schools, and community events, we connect with residents across San Mateo County—building meaningful relationships and expanding access to library resources. Our Makermobile brings hands-on technology like 3D printing and robotics to students, making 40 visits and traveling over 500 miles so far this fiscal year. Our library outreach vehicles—the Bookmobile and book vans—further strengthen our ability to connect with our rural coastal communities. Between July 2024 and March 2025, these vehicles logged approximately 3,600 miles, supporting 69 school stops, 143 community stops and 16 special events. Together, these efforts ensure that no matter where people live, they can connect to learning, creativity and opportunity.

"Learning, community, the excitement of discovery. I could go on and on. Excellent library system—way to go, County of San Mateo!"

– Library Patron

- To raise awareness of all we offer, we launched an exciting multilingual advertising campaign. Bold, colorful ads in English, Spanish and Mandarin appeared online, on buses and in local stores, showcasing everything from beloved classic library services to our most innovative offerings. In just three months, the campaign drew more than 30,000 visits to our Welcome webpage, where visitors signed up for library cards, discovered our programs and accessed valuable resources.



"I was blown away by the incredible collection...it's a paradise for readers, elders as well as kids. Keep it up!"

– Library Patron

Imaginative Programs

"The library is my favorite place to be."
– Library Patron

- We continue to strengthen our programs for older adults, offering enriching opportunities for learning, wellness, and connections. This year, more than 3,800 adults participated in 392 workshops, classes and field trips designed to support cognitive health and social engagement for our 55+ community. Both in-library events and community outings highlight our role as a welcoming organization that fosters belonging and combats loneliness. We remain dedicated to expanding programs that promote well-being and empower older adults to stay curious, connected and thriving.



"I'm recently retired, and the many library activities have helped me try new things and meet lots of nice people."
– Library Patron



"Your summer challenge (with prizes!) motivated my 8-year-old granddaughter to learn to read, and by the time school started, she had caught up with her class and was a voracious book lover!"
– Library Patron

- Last summer, we launched My Summer Adventure, a learning initiative that invited residents to explore, learn and create through more than 650 events. Participants used custom journals, featuring artwork by local author and illustrator Shawn Harris, to record their adventures, from park visits and bike rides to creative projects and much more. We celebrated our summer adventures with limited-edition library cards, tote bags, pins and stickers also designed by Harris. Youth participants had the chance to win a \$1,000 college scholarship or a County Parks pass to keep the adventure going.

"Reading opens up a world of possibilities and knowledge."
– Library Patron

- Adult Learning has welcomed over 1,500 community members through a growing list of classes and workshops. Compared to last year, we've expanded our English classes to unincorporated areas of the county and online. We've added new computer classes, initiated numeracy literacy, established digital literacy partnerships, and increased our citizenship and immigration support offerings.



"Volunteering has been such a delightful experience, as I am privileged to be a part of an organization that not only helps our members with their English-speaking skills but also cultivates in them a sense of friendship and community."
– Library Volunteer

- Literacy remains at the heart of our vision to build a strong foundation for a healthy, thriving community. This year, we launched Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, an early literacy program made possible with the generous support of the Foundation and our Friends groups. Through this program, families with children ages 0–5 receive a new book each month, helping to build rich home libraries and inspire a lifelong love of reading. Since launching in August 2024, we have registered 5,675 children and mailed 14,732 books.



- We added video games and consoles to our library collections. Patrons can now check out a variety of games and game consoles. This new collection offers a fun and affordable way for our community to explore stories, build connections and improve problem-solving skills. Video games can also help build literacy, critical thinking, and social skills, making them a great addition to our libraries. Over 4,000 games have been checked out.
- Fixit Clinics are a regular maker offering, with quarterly events held across our libraries. These workshops invite neighbors to bring in broken items for disassembly and repair alongside our volunteer Fixit Coaches. Involving attendees in the fixing process empowers them to learn by doing and promotes sustainability by nurturing a culture of reducing waste.



"Wonderful place to learn new skills and make new friends."
– Library Patron

Transformative Spaces



- In July, we unveiled our first Library Outpost in Pacifica. Located at the Sanchez Library, this new service offers 24/7 access to materials, curated and refreshed regularly to reflect community interests. With sustainable outdoor seating and free WiFi, the space invites neighbors to read, relax, and connect any time of day. Since its opening, the Library Outpost has seen strong engagement, with over 5,000 items circulated in the first three quarters of this fiscal year, highlighting the community's enthusiasm for this new service.

"It has all the books of my choice. They also help immediately and give recommendations."
– Library Patron



- Working closely with the city, we have temporarily closed the Belmont Library for an exciting refresh. Improvements include new interior and exterior painting, new flooring, upgraded shelving and furniture, and enhanced meeting room technology. Additionally, with support from the Friends of the Belmont Library, the makerspace will be completed to better support creativity and hands-on learning. We're excited for these updates to support us continuing to meet the evolving needs of the community.

"The libraries have been a gift for my kids."
– Library Patron



- We are excited to have final plans for a new children's play garden at the Atherton Library, developed in partnership with the Town and Miller Company landscape architects. Shaped by community engagement and input from the Friends of the Atherton Library, the 6,500-square-foot space will spark imagination and play through natural design elements like a whimsical willow hut, boulder mound, log tunnel and an accessible treehouse. The Atherton Town Council approved the final design and cost plans in early 2025.

- In partnership with the City and Friends of the San Carlos Library, design plans for a new makerspace on the second floor of the library have been completed. The makerspace will be a vibrant hub for creativity featuring a large creative work area and cutting-edge technology. Collaboration will be encouraged through cozy lounge areas, a writable wall and a digital screen for brainstorming and instruction. The project is currently moving into construction planning and permitting.



"I love going to makerspaces! I bring my mom to do crafts and reading. Sewing and 3D printing, plus laser printing! So much fun and so many things to learn."
– Library Patron

- Excitement continues to build for a new East Palo Alto Library. Noll & Tam Architects, has worked closely with the community, library and city to create an exciting two-story design. The result is an inspiring design that reflects the community's vision for a vibrant, inclusive space. The City Council approved the updated design and cost estimate, marking a major milestone in the journey toward a more modern, welcoming library for everyone.

"I am grateful for the meeting room spaces in our libraries with WiFi availability when network connectivity at home is broken or while I travel."
– Library Patron

- San Mateo County Libraries is updating technology in meeting spaces at all libraries. Public meeting spaces at Belmont, Half Moon Bay, Millbrae, and the Administration building will be completed this fiscal year. Improvements include upgraded interactive displays and microphones in large meeting rooms enhancing patron engagement in virtual meetings and presentations. Small study rooms will be equipped with new displays, facilitating collaborative online study sessions and access to digital library resources like homework help services. This investment will improve accessibility and the diverse patron needs of both individual and group work.



"Absolutely amazing staff and facilities. So supportive of students and community members."
– Library Patron

Fostering Wellness



"The library is a multi-faceted resource in our community"
– Library Champion

- This year, we introduced blood pressure monitor kits to our collection, now available for checkout at all library locations. These easy-to-use kits provide adults with a convenient way to check and track their blood pressure at home. Launched as a pilot program, this new offering reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting community wellness. By providing accessible health tools and resources, we're helping individuals and families stay informed, monitor their well-being, and take simple steps toward better health.



- We partnered with local urban forestry nonprofit Canopy to bring hands-on, climate-focused events to our community. Together, we hosted bilingual gardening workshops, tree walks, climate justice presentations and listening sessions led by local environmental experts. These programs invited community members to step outside and explore green spaces, while gaining valuable knowledge on how to protect our environment. Participants strengthened their connection to nature, each other, and the place they call home.



- Library spaces, programs, and community outreach continue to flourish thanks to the support of our dedicated volunteers, whom we proudly celebrated during National Volunteer Week for the many ways they help our libraries grow and thrive. Since the start of the fiscal year, we have welcomed 105 new volunteers and seen an increase in both total volunteer hours and active participants. From July 2024 through March 2025, 461 volunteers contributed 17,123 hours of service.

"A real hub for the community, it offers many engaging activities for people of all ages."
– Library Patron



- Our Library Champions are at the heart of what we do and we are committed to their growth and wellbeing. As of March, staff had completed more than 2,300 hours of training in areas ranging from Mental Health First Aid to customer service and AI. Nearly 200 staff joined our annual Staff Development Day to shape our Strategic Plan, celebrate each other, connect through fun activities, and team building. In this year's county-wide employee engagement survey staff shared that they feel proud to work here, value the relationships they have with their teams and believe in the quality of service we provide to our communities. Participation in the survey rose by over 50%, earning recognition from the County Engagement Committee as having one of the most improved year-over-year response rates County-wide.

- We were honored to be recognized as a Top Innovator by the Urban Libraries Council for our efforts to prevent domestic violence before it begins. The award highlighted our pioneering partnership with the nonprofit Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA). Through this partnership, we delivered an eight-week program that helped 250 families with young children build strong, healthy relationships. By focusing on prevention and care, we connected families to vital resources including food, diapers and parenting support, helping to strengthen bonds and build safer communities.



"The amount of resources provided to all members of our community and across the county, the way we are able to reach and include everyone... these employees go above and beyond. They include and support everyone regardless of race, gender, disability, home status, financial status—someone is there to help you... Thank you for all you do!"
– Library Patron

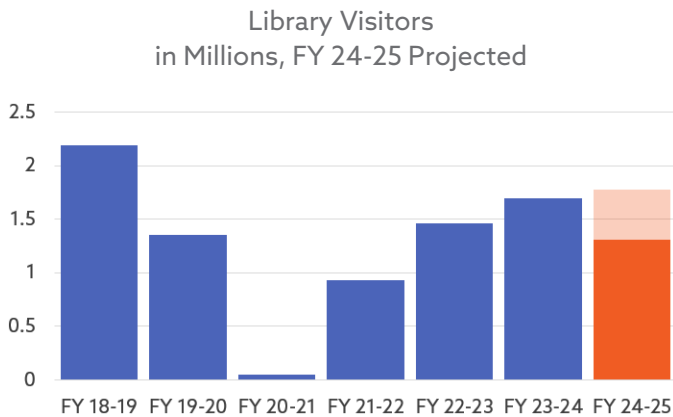


Performance

Our careful data collection gives us the opportunity to evaluate our accomplishments and growth points in measurable ways.

Performance

Library Visits



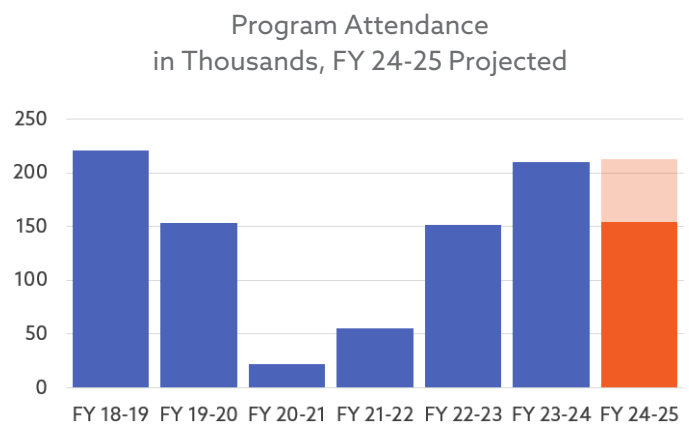
We have welcomed a growing number of library visitors, with over 1.3 million visits across all community libraries in the first three quarters of this fiscal year. Visitors are 5% higher than at this point last fiscal year. By year-end, we anticipate reaching 81% of FY 2018-19 visitors.

While it is useful to have FY 2018-19 as a reference point for service levels before the pandemic, as we continue to move forward, it is also important to recognize that the makeup and needs of our community have also shifted. For example, our service area population has declined 4% since FY 2018-19, and we continue to see a growing demand for digital services and engagement outside of our library spaces.

We continue to offer dynamic experiences to draw patrons through our doors, including Power Up Afternoons, FixIt Clinics, storytimes, technology classes, and expanded offerings for residents 55 and over. In addition, through a robust Public Awareness Campaign, we are actively working to increase community awareness of our services.

Programs and Events

Library program attendance has seen a strong return to nearly pre-pandemic levels. By year-end, we anticipate reaching 96% of FY 2018-19 attendance. As of the end of March, 153,988 people have attended our programs.

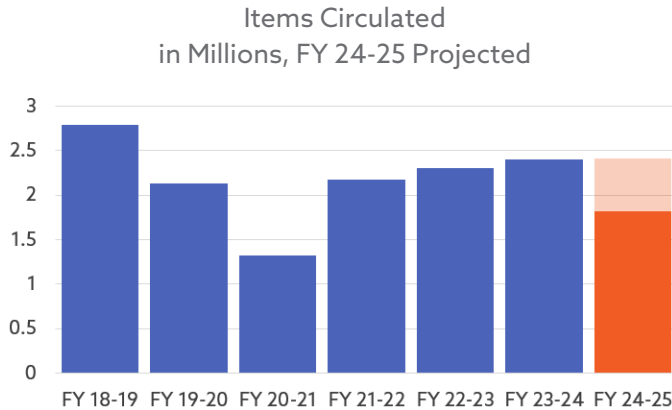


We continue to offer a growing number of diverse programs. Staff have organized 6,939 programs so far this year, 16% have been offered in languages other than English, including Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Hindi, and Tagalog. Our most popular program so far this year was a virtual author event with Raul the Third with 3,550 attendees.

Library Champions have also continued to increase engagement through intentional outreach outside of library spaces. Through 1,326 outreach events, we have interacted with around 67,497 community members this year, a 5% increase over last fiscal year.

Staff have shared library resources and meaningful experiences at schools, public events, and through Makermobile and Bookmobile visits—bringing learning, creativity, and connection into the heart of the community.

Circulation



Library users have checked out over 1.8 million items from our physical collection as of the end of March, which is at a similar level to this point last fiscal year. We anticipate reaching 86% of FY 2018-19 circulation levels by the end of the year.

Circulation of physical world language materials continues to be a key system priority. We have worked to expand both the variety of materials available across all libraries and the number of languages represented, which now includes Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Hindi, Tagalog, and Russian.

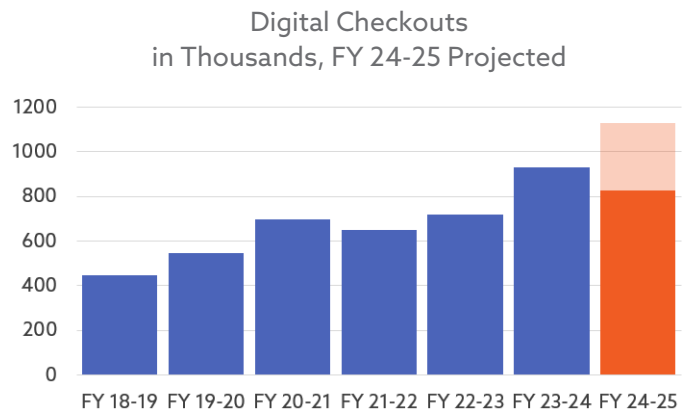
Our Library of Things collection, with offerings from puzzles to ukeleles to karaoke machines, continues to be popular. The community was particularly excited by the launch of video game collections in September. Patrons can now choose from over 500 videos games and 40 gaming consoles. These new materials have already exceeded 4,000 circulations.

"Staff is wonderful and helpful. Love the access to so many wonderful things!"
– Library Patron

Digital Circulation

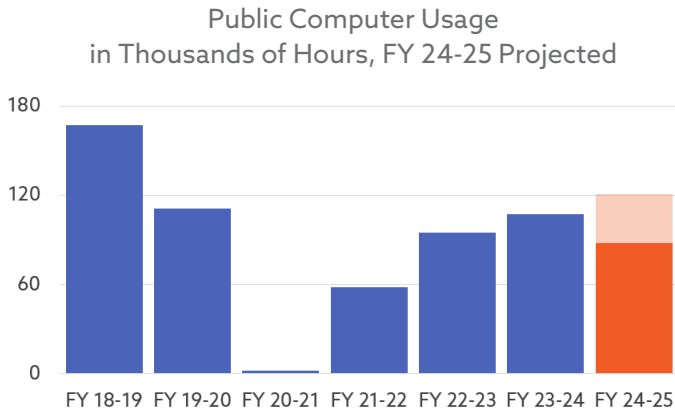
Digital materials are more popular than ever, and we're on track for another record-setting year—projected to reach the highest circulation since tracking began in FY 2015-16. With 825,256 digital checkouts of resources like eBooks, audiobooks, movies, and music so far, usage is up 21% compared to the same point last fiscal year.

Digital circulation on OverDrive, one of our most utilized digital content providers, has risen 25% over this point last fiscal year and 188% since FY 2018-19, demonstrating the strong and sustained growth in demand for these services.



Patrons also have access to a wide variety of digital databases that are available without a loan period or wait time. Through one of our most popular digital databases, PressReader, patrons have opened 236,916 newspaper and magazine articles so far this year, which is 124% higher than at this time last fiscal year. Kono Magazine, which provides digital magazines in Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and more, has been used 31,026 times.

Technology Access



We continue to see a return to the use of Internet access within library spaces. Library visitors have logged nearly 88,000 hours on library computers so far this year, up 13% from the same period in FY 2023-24.

Unique WiFi users as of March are up 20% over last year. This year we have also updated the wireless access points in all of our libraries, enhancing the patron experience and providing better, more reliable Internet access.

Mobile WiFi remains one of our most in-demand services, with 13,243 checkouts of hotspots and laptops with hotspots so far this fiscal year. We have also expanded the number of WiFi hotspots available for use by 22% and now have 2,700 devices available for checkout, enhancing connectivity for our community. In addition, we are working to upgrade many of our WiFi hotspots to a 5G network, delivering faster and more reliable service.

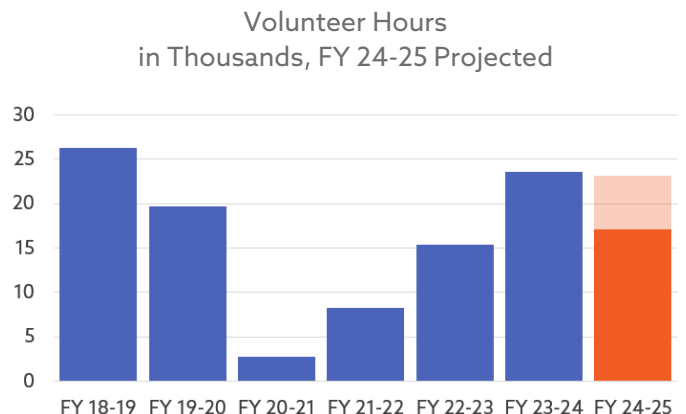
"What a friendly place with good staff and programs, very spacious, plenty of computers."
– Library Patron

Library Champions

Library staff are at the core of everything we do. Over the last several years, thanks to the continued strong growth in property taxes, we have been able to add more permanent library staff to support expanding services and community needs. Currently, we have 156 permanent employees. We remain committed to growth and development, with 23 staff promotions so far this year.

This year 263 permanent and part-time staff participated in an employee engagement survey. We were excited to see that 93% of staff reported that they are proud of and enjoy their work and 86% reported that they think of their work as more than just a job. The amazing services and experiences we provide would not be possible without their commitment.

As of the end of March, staff have provided exceptional service through 26,786 library hours, delivered dynamic in-library programs and outreach to community members, and answered 16,103 Customer Care calls. Volunteers continue to offer incredible support and enrichment in our library spaces, with 17,123 volunteer hours logged through the end of March.





Recommended Budget

Our annual budget provides insights into our financial plans, operations guide and communication strategies.

Budget Background

The annual budget details the operations, projects, and initiatives for San Mateo County Libraries and distributes resources designed to meet performance and service objectives. Input is sought from stakeholders in order to respond to community needs and optimize resources with the goal of providing meaningful services.

The budget is prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting in which revenue is recognized when it is both measurable and available, and expenditures are recorded when they are incurred. Total expenditures may not exceed the budgeted expenditures, and the budget lapses at the end of each fiscal year. The fiscal year begins July 1 and ends June 30.

Approval of the annual budget is the responsibility of the Library JPA Governing Board. The budget is legally enacted through passage of a motion during a Board meeting, followed by acceptance by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.

Following the completion of our new Strategic Plan 2025-30, the Recommended Budget works to set priorities and provide allocations responsive to the feedback and input we received during our community engagement efforts.

The Recommended Budget continues to reflect many of the investments made in recent years to increase and expand our services and programs.

FY 2025-26 Priorities

The following priorities will be continued and implemented this year:

- Implement our new strategic plan and respond to the priorities identified through community and stakeholder outreach and engagement efforts.
- Reach more community members through intentional outreach and marketing efforts.
- Prioritize cultural programming in our libraries to ensure everyone feels welcome and represented in our spaces.
- Elevate adult and youth literacy efforts and develop responsive programs to empower and cultivate a community of learners.
- Establish new and deepen existing community partnerships to expand and enhance supportive services.
- Increase access to technology and hands-on learning to advance digital literacy.
- Create and update libraries to include vibrant, welcoming spaces that inspire creativity, collaboration, and exploration.
- Develop and implement performance metrics and system targets to track progress and inform ongoing improvements.
- Support the well-being and growth of our library champions and amplify their talents.

Revenues Summary

Recommended Revenues total \$46.2 million. Our main source of revenue is derived from taxes (\$44.7 million). San Mateo County Libraries is entitled to receive a small portion of property taxes collected within the boundaries of our service area.

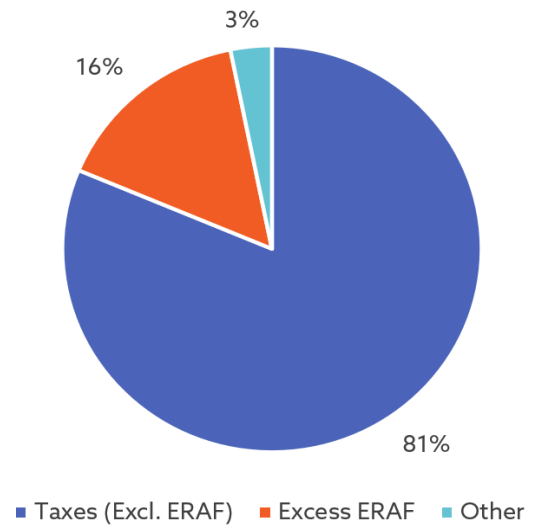
Revenue from secured property taxes (taxes assessed against real property) is estimated to increase to \$33.4 million. Revenue from unsecured taxes (taxes on aircraft and commercial equipment largely generated from businesses at San Francisco International Airport) is estimated at \$1.2 million.

Other sources of significant ongoing revenue include a projected \$1 million from the dissolution of redevelopment agencies (RDA), \$560,000 from taxes resulting from secured and unsecured Supplemental Assessments (taxes derived from properties that have changed ownership or have been reassessed due to new construction), and \$440,842 for a service agreement with Redwood City to support services at the North Fair Oaks Library.

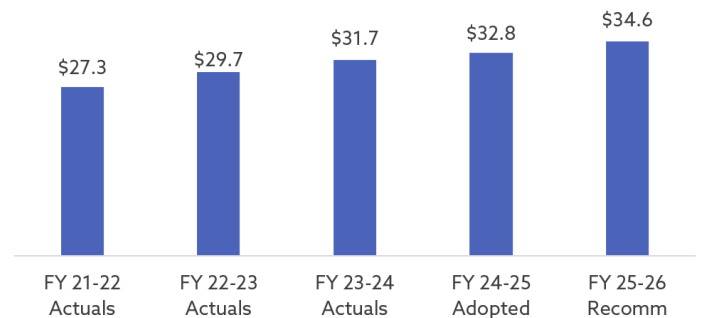
Another significant revenue source is \$7.2 million in excess Educational Revenue Augmentation Funds. Excess ERAF is the amount of property tax generated in a year which exceeds the amount due to the State to offset support for education. The Recommended Budget adopts a new practice of allocating up to 50% of anticipated excess ERAF toward ongoing expenses.

Measure K funds in the amount of \$1.2 million are also budgeted to support The Big Lift Summer Program and Raising a Reader.

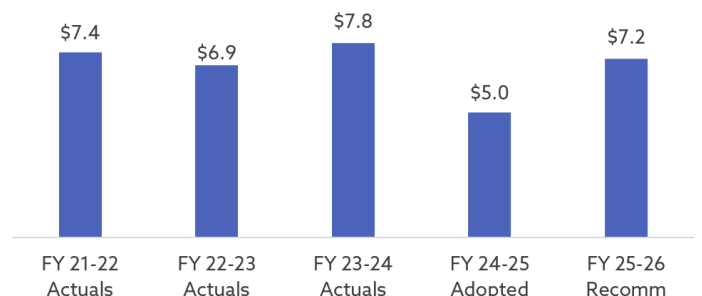
FY 2025-26 Budgeted Revenue



Property Tax Revenue in Millions



Excess ERAF in Millions



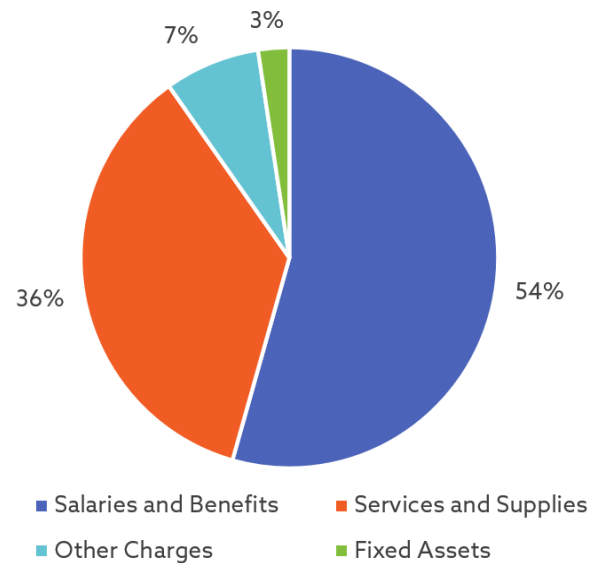
Expenditures Summary

Recommended Expenditures total \$54.3 million. Salaries and Benefits are the largest contributor to costs, representing 54% of all expenditures. All San Mateo County Libraries staff are employees of the County of San Mateo. The Recommended Budget estimates labor costs of \$29.5 million. This estimate includes the cost-of-living adjustments included in current County labor agreements. The next increase of 5% for all employees goes into effect in October 2025.

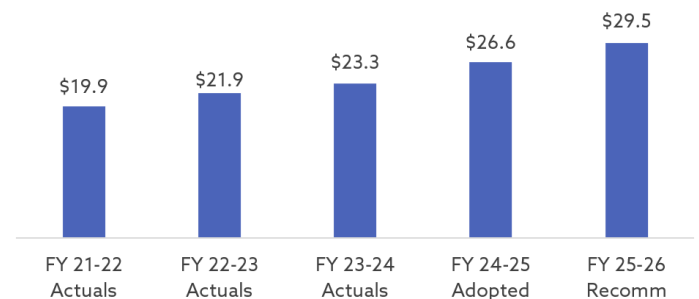
Other significant operational expenses fall under Services and Supplies at \$19.4 million and include \$4.2 million for library collections; \$3.5 million for furniture replacement and facility upgrades; \$2.8 million for computer equipment, software, and maintenance agreements; \$2.7 million to support library programs, including initiatives in the summer; \$1.9 million for services provided by the Peninsula Library System; and an estimated \$1.2 million in excess library property taxes.

Other Charges total \$4 million, including \$2.7 million for direct and indirect services provided by the County; \$800,000 to support a new makerspace at the San Carlos Library; and \$400,000 for the service agreement with Daly City to provide services to Colma and Broadmoor. Fixed Assets total \$1.3 million to fund equipment replacements, additional outreach vehicles, and privacy pods for our libraries. Other Financing Uses account for the remaining expenditures.

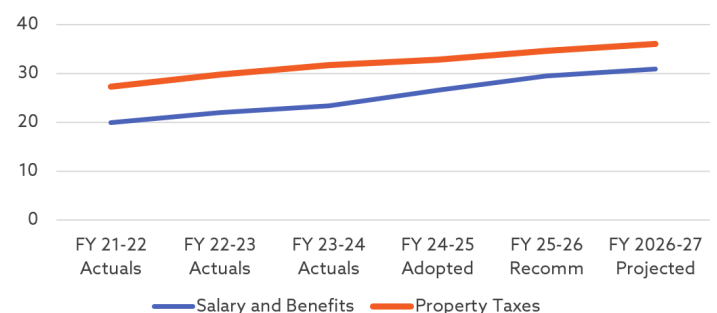
FY 2025-26 Budgeted Expenditures



Salaries and Benefits in Millions



Salaries and Benefits and Property Taxes in Millions



Reserves Summary

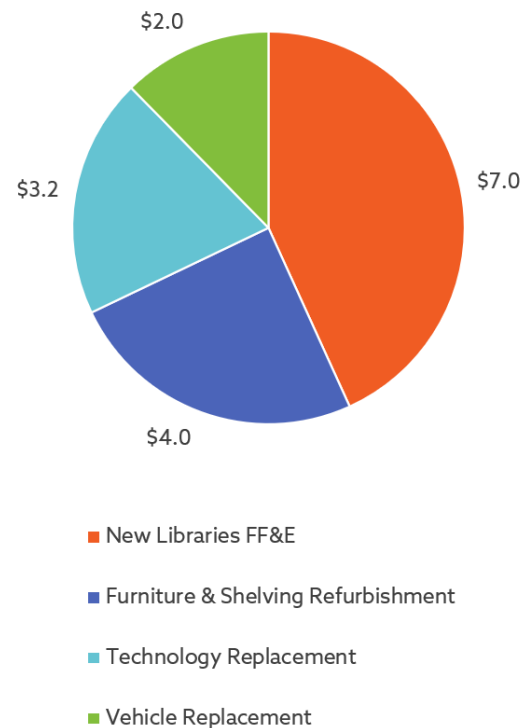
Recommended Operating and Capital Reserves total \$37.9 million. The Fund Balance Policy requires that Operating Reserves be maintained at 15% of adopted general operations (Net Appropriations excluding one-time activities). These funds are maintained in the event of emergencies or unanticipated funding losses. The Recommended Budget meets the requirement established for Operating Reserves by setting aside \$5.9 million for ongoing expenditures of \$39.1 million.

Additionally, the Fund Balance Policy requires us to maintain Capital Reserves in an amount equal to but not less than \$2.5 million. The Recommended Budget meets this requirement, setting aside \$32 million in Capital Reserves. These funds may be used for innovative opportunities related to operational improvements and asset replacement needs as approved by the Governing Board.

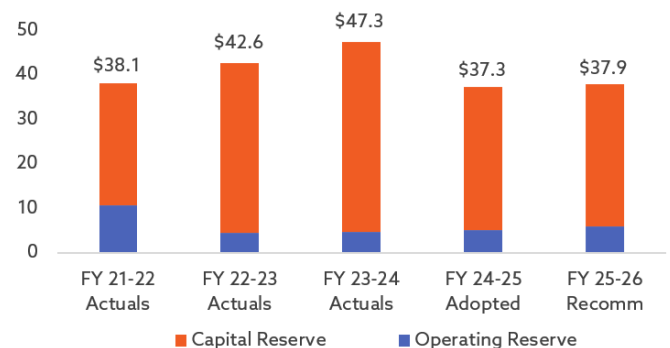
Capital Reserves are assigned to anticipated projects that are financially significant. Currently, \$16.2 million are assigned, including \$7 million for furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E) for future new libraries in East Palo Alto (\$2.5 million), North Fair Oaks (\$1.5 million), and Pacifica (\$3 million). Future refinement of these assignments may occur to ensure sound fiscal management and responsiveness to evolving service needs.

Our strong reserves can be primarily attributed to the growth of excess ERAF revenue. The Governing Board previously authorized the use of excess ERAF for one-time purposes or to be set aside in reserves. Moving forward, a new practice of utilizing 50% of anticipated excess ERAF for ongoing purposes will allow us to more effectively utilize this funding source and reduce the accumulation of reserves.

Assigned Capital Reserves
in Millions



Operating and Capital Reserves
in Millions



Budget Highlights

Budget Highlights provide a summary of allocations for recommended major initiatives.

Library Staffing Support: \$1,250,979

To effectively respond to community feedback and our new strategic plan goals, nine new permanent positions are recommended.

The importance of continuing to build community partnerships and bolstering our efforts to engage harder to reach communities were key priorities identified from our strategic planning efforts. A new Library Services Manager to oversee these areas is recommended, along with three part-time Library Assistants, to increase our public services staff's capacity to support this important work.

Community members expressed a desire to feel at-home in our physical spaces. To better prioritize the enhancement and ongoing improvements of our spaces, the addition of one Facilities Project Coordinator and one Facilities Support Assistant are recommended.

A key priority in implementing our new strategic plan is ensuring that our Library Champions are supported and have the resources they need to grow and thrive. Two Program Coordinators are recommended to lead efforts in volunteer management, staff training, security and safety, and customer care. Finally, a Contract Administrator is recommended to provide procurement support for expanded services.

Makerspace Construction: \$1,046,000

Funds are allocated to design, construct, and furnish a new makerspace at the San Carlos Library. This includes an \$800,000 transfer to the City of San Carlos to support the construction of the innovative space, which will be housed on the second floor of the library.

Assets for Outreach: \$716,205

The Governing Board previously approved the purchase of a new Bookmobile at \$639,282. With tax, the final total is \$702,411. The Recommended Budget includes the final 50% payment of \$351,205. In addition, \$255,000 is rolled over from FY 2024-25 for five outreach vehicles that will arrive next fiscal year. Finally, \$110,00 is budgeted to purchase two cargo vans to support community engagement.

Privacy Pods: \$570,000

In response to community feedback desiring flexible spaces and more meeting rooms, the budget supports the purchase of six to eight additional privacy pods as well as allocations for design costs and electrical for installation.

Artificial Intelligence Applications: \$200,000

Funds are allocated to engage a consultant to assess the current Artificial Intelligence landscape and how other library systems are leveraging emerging technologies to improve services. Funds are also included to purchase and implement identified applications.

Digital Literacy Hubs: \$180,000

Through engagement efforts, we learned that community members, especially those that speak Spanish, desire more technology classes and support. The budget proposes establishing digital literacy hubs at library and community locations, in partnership with a service provider, to provide digital literacy services, with an emphasis on providing 40% of services in a language other than English.

Reading Tutoring & Homework Help: \$140,000

Focus groups with parents and Spanish speakers, revealed a strong desire for increased educational support. To address this need, funding is allocated to work in partnership with a service provider to establish reading tutoring as well as support for more general homework help.

Budget Overview

The Budget Overview highlights significant changes from the FY 2024-25 Adopted Budget to the FY 2025-26 Recommended Budget for both revenue (Total Sources) and expenditures (Total Requirements).

Total Sources

- 1000 - Taxes (\$41,084,616 to \$44,707,104): There is an increase of \$3,622,488 in this funding source due to an increase to secured property taxes to reflect recent actuals and estimates from the County and budgeting excess ERAF at the average amount received over the last five fiscal years. These additions are offset by the removal of County Measure K funds for the Summer Learning program.
- 1600 - Intergovernmental Revenues (\$768,510 to \$778,842): There is an increase of \$10,332 for the CPI increase to the annual contribution from the City of Redwood City to support operations at the North Fair Oaks Library.
- 2500 - Interfund Revenue (\$295,292 to \$316,378): There is an increase of \$21,086 to account for the County's reimbursement of rent and facility service charges for the East Palo Alto and North Fair Oaks Libraries.
- 333 - Fund Balance (\$47,309,462 to \$45,985,022): There is a decrease of \$1,324,440 in this funding source to align with mid-year estimates of year-end fund balance. Fund balance reflects the carry forward of reserves, unanticipated revenues, and unspent appropriations projected at the close of the current fiscal year. After June 30, a final reconciliation will be completed to account for actual revenue and expenditures, and final fund balance will be adjusted during September Revisions.

Total Requirements

- 4000 - Salaries and Benefits (\$26,619,890 to \$29,500,704): There is an increase of \$2,880,814 primarily due to County-negotiated labor agreements. All non-management permanent, extra help, and limited term employees are represented by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). The current agreement with SEIU includes the following cost-of-living adjustments: 5% October 2025; and 4-5% October 2026. Management employees receive the same increases.

In addition, nine new positions are recommended, including two Program Coordinators; one Contract Administrator; one Facilities Project Coordinator, one Facilities Support Assistant, one Library Services Manager, and three part-time Library Assistants (\$1.3 million).

These new positions will bolster our ability to implement our new strategic plan goals by providing strategic leadership overseeing partnerships and outreach, supporting expanded projects and upkeep at library facilities, strengthening public service operations, and increasing our capacity to meet the growing demands in human resources and business operations.

There is sufficient ongoing revenue to support these positions due to the steady growth in property tax revenue over the past decade. The total number of library positions would increase to 165 and the total full-time equivalent (FTE) is 150. Extra help and limited term staff are not reflected in FTE or position count.

- 5000 - Services and Supplies (\$21,131,660 to \$19,414,090): There is an overall decrease of \$1,717,570 in this expenditure category. Significant changes and allocations include:

Collection allocations total \$4,202,000 (accounts 5931-5939) for print, language, audio, video, and digital library materials (e.g., eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMusic, and eVideos). The overall collections budget has increased by 66% since FY 2018-19, with the allocation for digital library materials specifically increasing by 86% over the same period, in alignment with the growth in demand for digital offerings.

Computer Equipment and Software (accounts 5212 and 5215) total \$2,702,247. This amount includes funds to service our WiFi hotspots, explore service applications for artificial intelligence, and to refresh and update equipment, including emergency backup power, public and staff laptops.

Furniture and Equipment costs total \$3,470,000 (account 5234), which includes \$2 million for adding air conditioning to our administrative building in collaboration with the County Department of Public Works. The remaining funds will be used to update shelving and interior and exterior furniture at community libraries.

Program Activities Expense total \$1,674,017 (account 5927) and support our wide-ranging programming and outreach efforts. We continue to expand our offerings, including new initiatives for teens, additional makerspace programming, and a variety of learning opportunities for English language learners. In response to our strategic plan survey findings, we will be making a concerted effort to expand the variety and quality of cultural programming in our library spaces.

The estimated excess library property taxes to be set aside in Library Trust accounts totals \$1,200,000 (account 5184). As outlined in the Library JPA Agreement 50:50 split provision, fifty% of any excess funds not set aside for approved uses by the Governing Board will be returned to the Library JPA.

Professional Contracts costs total \$1,458,000 (account 5858), which includes design and electrical services for installing privacy pods, contracts with community partners to provide social service supports, and a new allocation to develop digital literacy hubs in collaboration with an external service provider. This category also includes allocations for attorney and auditor services.

Peninsula Library System costs total \$1,920,325 (account 5875) and support services such as materials delivery, the shared online library catalog, and network management.

Current year allocations of \$418,742 for Donations and Friends Funded Services are removed (accounts 5198 & 5199). Any rollover realized at the end of the current fiscal year will be added during September Revisions.

- 6000 - Other Charges (\$3,069,788 to \$4,007,356): There is an overall increase of \$937,568 in this expenditure category, which reflects costs associated with services provided by the County, including HR, financial systems, building and vehicle maintenance, and liability insurance (accounts 6712-6821). It also captures payments to other agencies (account 6263), including \$400,000 to Daly City for services provided to residents of unincorporated Broadmoor and Colma. The increase is primarily due to budgeting \$800,000 as an anticipated transfer to the City of San Carlos to support the construction of a new makerspace.
- 7000 - Fixed Assets (\$1,645,557 to \$1,306,205): Fixed assets are tangible assets valued at \$5,000 or greater. There is an overall decrease of \$339,352 (account 7311). As outlined in the Library JPA Procurement Policy, estimated costs for individual fixed assets of \$200,001 or above are to be listed in the annual budget. If the actual cost once bid is 20% or more higher than originally estimated in the budget, JPA Governing Board pre-approval of the new cost will be required.

The only individual fixed asset that meets this threshold is the new Bookmobile. The Governing Board has previously approved the purchase of a new Bookmobile at \$639,282. With tax, the final total is \$702,411. The Recommended Budget includes the final 50% payment of \$351,205.

Other budgeted fixed assets include rolling over \$255,00 from FY 2024-25 for five new outreach vehicles. The vehicles have been ordered but will not arrive until next fiscal year. In addition, \$110,00 is budgeted to add two cargo vans to support community engagement.

Finally, \$250,000 is budgeted for automated material handling equipment and the purchase of additional smart returns, and \$340,000 is budgeted to purchase six to eight privacy pods to be installed at libraries.

- 8500 - Operating Reserves (\$5,100,464 to \$5,863,392): There is an increase of \$762,928 in Operating Reserves (account 8611) to meet the Library JPA Fund Balance Policy. As detailed in the policy, the balance of Operating Reserves represents 15% of Net Appropriations (less one-time items). Ongoing expenditures in the Recommended Budget total \$39,089,281. This contingency is maintained in the event of emergencies or unanticipated funding losses.
- 8700 - Capital Reserves (\$32,230,384 to \$32,029,751): There is a decrease of \$200,633 in Capital Reserves (account 8811) due to updating fund balance to reflect FY mid-year, year-end estimates and allocating fund balance to one-time activities. After year-end close, a final reconciliation will be completed to account for actual revenue and expenditures, which may result in adjustments to both fund balance and reserves during September Revisions. The current amount exceeds the Library JPA Fund Balance Policy requirement of maintaining a minimum of \$2,500,000 in Capital Reserves.

Budget Summary

		FY 2023-24 Actuals	FY 2024-25 Adopted	Change	FY 2025-26 Recommended
<u>Sources</u>					
1000	Taxes	45,429,636	41,084,616	3,622,488	44,707,104
1500	Use of Money and Property	1,618,877	371,216	-	371,216
1600	Intergovernmental Revenues	2,071,370	768,510	10,332	778,842
2000	Charges for Services	14,395	-	-	-
2500	Interfund Revenue	270,515	295,292	21,086	316,378
2600	Miscellaneous Revenue	802,597	5,000	-	5,000
	Total Revenue	50,207,391	42,524,634	3,653,906	46,178,540
333	Fund Balance	42,640,445	47,309,462	(1,324,440)	45,985,022
	TOTAL SOURCES	92,847,836	89,834,096	2,329,466	92,163,562
<u>Requirements</u>					
4000	Salaries and Benefits	23,298,014	26,619,890	2,880,814	29,500,704
5000	Services and Supplies	17,213,432	21,131,660	(1,717,570)	19,414,090
6000	Other Charges	4,359,475	3,069,788	937,568	4,007,356
7000	Fixed Assets	634,235	1,645,557	(339,352)	1,306,205
7500	Other Financing Uses	33,218	36,353	5,711	42,064
	Gross Appropriations	45,538,373	52,503,248	1,767,171	54,270,419
8000	Intrafund Transfers	-	-	-	-
	Net Appropriations	45,538,373	52,503,248	1,767,171	54,270,419
8500	Operating Reserves	4,709,726	5,100,464	762,928	5,863,392
8700	Capital Reserves	42,599,737	32,230,384	(200,633)	32,029,751
	Total Reserves	47,309,463	37,330,848	562,295	37,893,143
	TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	92,847,836	89,834,096	2,329,466	92,163,562

Personnel Summary

	FY 2024-25 Current Position Count	Change	FY 2025-26 Recommended Position Count	FY 2025-26 Recommended FTE*
Administration	9	-	9	8.50
Adult Programs & Literacy	6	(2)	4	4.00
Collections and Access	8	-	8	8.00
Communications and Marketing	4	-	4	4.00
Finance and Performance	4	2	6	5.50
Human Resources	3	1	4	4.00
Information Technology	7	-	7	7.00
Library Facilities and Fleet	2	2	4	4.00
Partnerships and Outreach	-	3	3	3.00
Youth and Families	4	-	4	4.00
Community Libraries:				
Atherton Library	9	-	9	8.25
Belmont Library	11	1	12	10.25
Brisbane Library	7	-	7	6.00
East Palo Alto Library	9	-	9	8.00
Foster City Library	11	1	12	10.00
Half Moon Bay Library	11	1	12	10.00
Millbrae Library	11	-	11	10.25
North Fair Oaks Library	7	-	7	6.50
Pacifica Libraries	10	-	10	8.50
Portola Valley Library	6	-	6	5.00
San Carlos Library	11	-	11	10.25
Woodside Library	6	-	6	5.00
Total	156	9	165	150.00

*FTE: A full-time equivalent position is equal to 2,080 hours a year (40 hours/week x 52 weeks). Extra Help and limited term staff are not reflected in the FTE nor Position Count (approximately 150 staff). Limited Term positions for next year include: 1 position to support adult literacy partnerships, 1 position to support public awareness efforts, and 1 position to implement emerging technology.

Organizational Chart



Anne-Marie Despain
Director



Priscilla Bermudez
Administrative
Assistant



Lindsey Freeland
Director of Finance
and Performance



Katie Woods
Director of Communications
and Marketing



Danae Ramirez
Deputy Director



Richard Moala
HR and Employee
Experience Manager



Silvia Urena
IT and Innovations
Manager



Rachel McDonnell
Project and Facilities
Manager



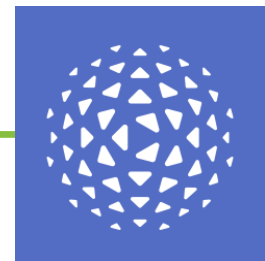
Carine Risley
Deputy Director



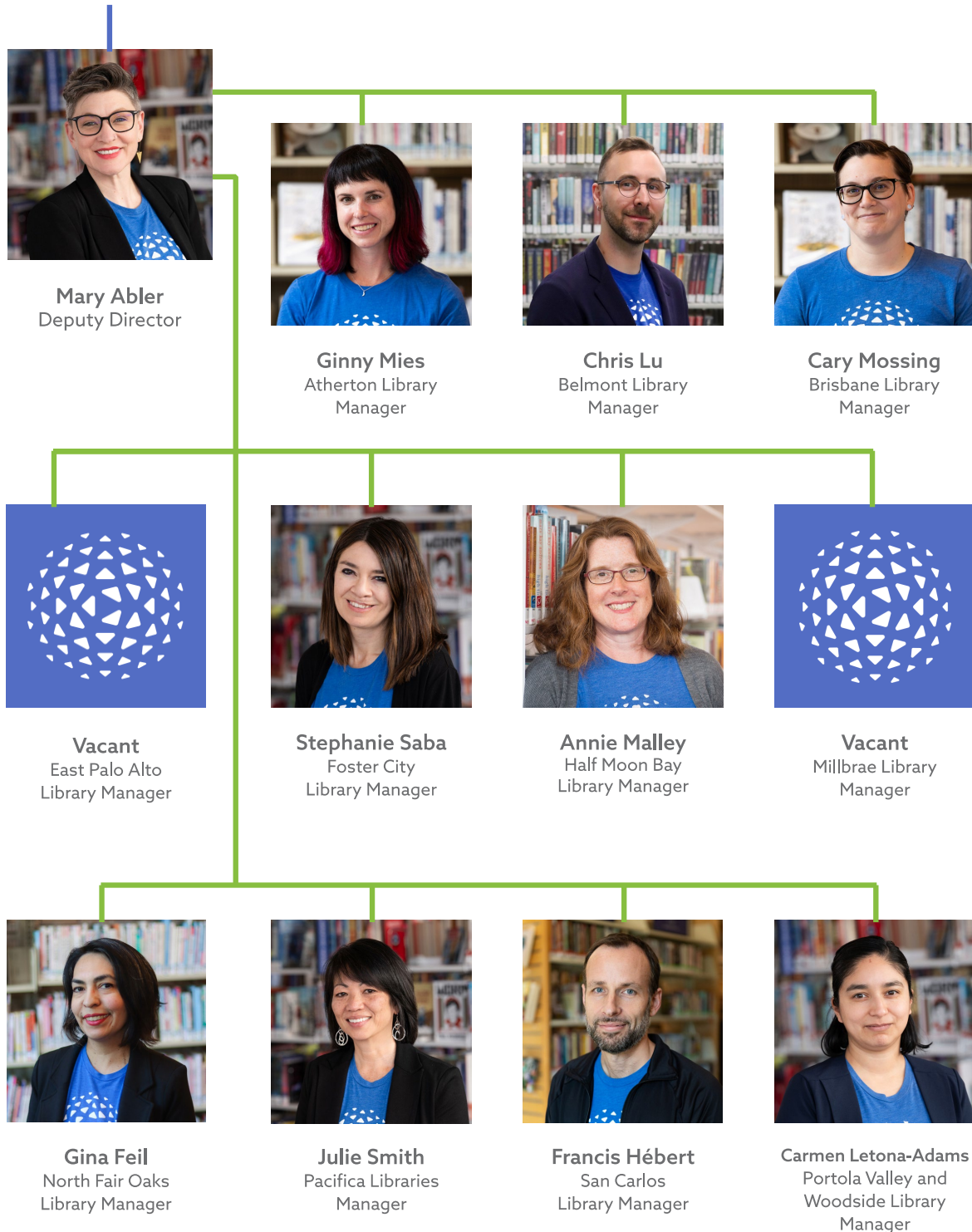
Nicole Cuadra
Adult, Literacy and
Outreach Services
Manager



Elise Staples
Youth and Family
Services Manager



Vacant
Collections and Access
Services Manager



Budget Detail

		FY 2023-24 Actuals	FY 2024-25 Adopted	Change	FY 2025-26 Recommended
<u>Sources</u>					
1021	Current Year Secured	30,410,351	31,558,151	1,854,089	33,412,240
1024	PY Secured Redemption	11,519	7,000	-	7,000
1031	Current Year Unsecured	1,250,080	1,200,000	-	1,200,000
1033	Prior Year Unsecured	(15,632)	-	-	-
1041	CY SB 813 Sec Supplemental	825,363	550,000	-	550,000
1042	CY SB 813 Unsec Supplemental	9,816	5,000	-	5,000
1043	PY SB 813 Redemption	30,496	5,000	-	5,000
1045	PY SB 813 Unsec Supplemental	5,183	-	-	-
1046	Excess ERAF	7,797,711	5,000,000	2,156,688	7,156,688
1047	Former RDA - Residuals	1,238,138	600,000	-	600,000
1058	Former RDA - Passthrough	1,394,198	400,000	-	400,000
1129	Property Tax In-Lieu of VLF	183,164	183,164	-	183,164
1135	Sales & Use Tax - Measure K	2,289,250	1,576,301	(388,289)	1,188,012
1000	Taxes	45,429,636	41,084,616	3,622,488	44,707,104
1521	County Pool Interest Earned	1,512,454	350,000	-	350,000
1525	LAIF Interest Earned	92,811	10,000	-	10,000
1556	PLS Rent	13,612	11,216	-	11,216
1500	Use of Money and Property	1,618,877	371,216	-	371,216
1661	Highway Property Tax Rental	1,045	600	-	600
1831	Homeowner Tax Relief	89,055	105,000	-	105,000
1868	Timber Tax Yield	2,389	2,000	-	2,000
1871	State Aid/Grants	208,326	230,000	-	230,000
1971	Other In-Lieu Taxes	488	400	-	400
1985	Loan Repayments	1,350,467	-	-	-
1986	Redwood City Contribution	419,600	430,510	10,332	440,842
1600	Intergovernmental Revenues	2,071,370	768,510	10,332	778,842

		FY 2023-24 Actuals	FY 2024-25 Adopted	Change	FY 2025-26 Recommended
2291	Library Fees & Fines	14,395	-	-	-
2000	Charges for Services	14,395	-	-	-
2521	County GF Contribution	267,163	295,292	21,086	316,378
2545	Other Interfund Revenue	3,352	-	-	-
2500	Interfund Revenue	270,515	295,292	21,086	316,378
2644	Comp Insurance Refunds	29,370	-	-	-
2645	SDI Payments	64,615	5,000	-	5,000
2646	Gifts & Donations	2,963	-	-	-
2647	Friends Donations	421,853	-	-	-
2655	Foundation Grants	283,796	-	-	-
2658	All Other Misc. Revenue	29,370	-	-	-
2600	Miscellaneous Revenue	802,597	5,000	-	5,000
	Total Revenue	50,207,391	42,524,634	3,653,906	46,178,540
333	Fund Balance	42,640,445	47,309,462	(1,324,440)	45,985,022
	TOTAL SOURCES	92,847,836	89,834,096	2,329,466	92,163,562

Requirements

4111	Permanent Salaries	14,854,628	15,942,567	2,599,272	18,541,839
4160	Extra Help Salaries and Benefits	3,046,457	4,392,402	(513,440)	3,878,962
4321	Retirement Contributions	2,858,812	3,274,096	541,772	3,815,868
4400	Benefits	2,171,646	2,633,736	253,799	2,887,535
4450	Workers Comp/Unemployment	366,471	377,089	(589)	376,500
4000	Salaries and Benefits	23,298,014	26,619,890	2,880,814	29,500,704

		FY 2023-24 Actuals	FY 2024-25 Adopted	Change	FY 2025-26 Recommended
5132	ISD Phones	57,144	93,857	(36,882)	56,975
5184	Revenue Set Aside - Excess Funds	3,749,487	1,500,000	(300,000)	1,200,000
5193	Office Expenses	202,151	202,000	-	202,000
5196	Photocopy Lease/Usage	59,076	145,000	(60,000)	85,000
5197	Mail	21,105	29,000	-	29,000
5198	Donations Funded Services	-	123,306	(123,306)	-
5199	Friends Funded Services	-	295,436	(295,436)	-
5212	Computer Equipment	2,470,831	3,485,400	(1,965,400)	1,520,000
5215	Software and Maintenance	842,407	981,890	200,357	1,182,247
5234	Furniture and Equipment	423,000	1,800,000	1,670,000	3,470,000
5331	Professional Memberships	53,259	51,000	4,000	55,000
5343	Advertising and Publicity	7,337	10,000	-	10,000
5459	Misc. Other Maintenance	68,980	163,000	(50,000)	113,000
5631	Utilities	38,423	35,000	-	35,000
5634	Recycling	8,590	10,000	-	10,000
5712	Mileage Allowance	12,012	12,100	-	12,100
5714	Employee Reimbursement	25,328	25,000	-	25,000
5721	Meetings and Conferences	172,362	289,240	7,760	297,000
5731	Employee Training	1,174	2,000	-	2,000
5833	Contract Security Services	108,032	100,800	-	100,800
5854	Contract Library Services	184,305	135,000	50,000	185,000
5856	Promotional Materials	247,182	227,500	-	227,500
5858	Professional Contracts	530,508	1,984,203	(526,203)	1,458,000
5866	Fingerprinting	38,371	61,440	560	62,000
5875	Peninsula Library System Fees	1,445,541	1,973,000	(52,675)	1,920,325
5876	Programming Services	5,526	10,000	-	10,000
5925	Emergency Assistance Expense	15,538	500,000	(250,000)	250,000
5926	Alcohol/Drug Testing	97	500	-	500
5927	Program Activities Expense	1,280,574	1,674,017	-	1,674,017

		FY 2023-24 Actuals	FY 2024-25 Adopted	Change	FY 2025-26 Recommended
5931	Books - Adult	720,717	550,000	-	550,000
5932	Books - Children	687,009	683,000	42,000	725,000
5933	Videos - Children	5,180	50,000	(40,000)	10,000
5934	Books - Serials	167,011	130,000	40,000	170,000
5936	Audio Materials	37,359	75,000	(25,000)	50,000
5937	Videos - Adult	88,478	150,000	(50,000)	100,000
5938	Digital Materials	1,630,455	1,840,000	33,000	1,873,000
5939	World Language Materials	626,760	724,000	-	724,000
5942	Other Library Expense	789,781	1,009,971	9,655	1,019,626
5969	Summer Learning - Measure K	392,339	-	-	-
5000	Services and Supplies	17,213,432	21,131,660	(1,717,570)	19,414,090
6263	Agreements - Daly City/Other	2,517,172	506,174	800,000	1,306,174
6712	Telephone Service Charges	-	-	8,889	8,889
6713	County IT - Automation Services	80,961	114,305	(4,311)	109,994
6714	County Facility Rental Charges	349,165	389,098	83,118	472,216
6717	Motor Vehicle Mileage Charges	35,179	33,711	12,270	45,981
6724	Auto Liability Insurance	8,123	7,244	(2,320)	4,924
6725	General Liability Insurance	470,619	734,857	175,094	909,951
6727	Official Bond Insurance	9,679	11,269	1,012	12,281
6728	County Property Insurance	114,206	187,298	(128,341)	58,957
6732	County Counsel Services	-	25,000	-	25,000
6733	Human Resources Services	9,439	10,875	960	11,835
6734	Motor Vehicle Replace Charge	6,317	-	-	-
6738	Countywide Security Services	10,849	13,228	1,507	14,735
6739	All Other Service Charges	4,317	7,464	(1,817)	5,647
6751	Card Key Public Works	9,360	12,308	(3,220)	9,088
6752	County IT - All Other	-	-	24,785	24,785
6821	County Allocation Plan	734,089	1,016,957	(30,058)	986,899
6000	Other Charges	4,359,475	3,069,788	937,568	4,007,356

		FY 2023-24 Actuals	FY 2024-25 Adopted	Change	FY 2025-26 Recommended
7331	Fixed Assets - Equipment	634,235	1,645,557	(339,352)	1,306,205
7000	Fixed Assets	634,235	1,645,557	(339,352)	1,306,205
7548	Facility Maintenance Charge	33,218	36,353	5,711	42,064
7500	Other Financing Uses	33,218	36,353	5,711	42,064
	Gross Appropriations	45,538,373	52,503,248	1,767,171	54,270,419
8142	Intrafund Transfers	-	-	-	-
8000	Intrafund Transfers	-	-	-	-
	Net Appropriations	45,538,373	52,503,248	1,767,171	54,270,419
8611	Operating Reserves	4,709,726	5,100,464	762,928	5,863,392
8811	Capital Reserves	42,599,737	32,230,384	(200,633)	32,029,751
	Total Reserves	47,309,463	37,330,848	562,295	37,893,143
	TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	92,847,836	89,834,096	2,329,466	92,163,562



FUND BALANCE POLICY

I. Purpose

Prudent financial management suggests that all governmental entities should establish fund balance policies to provide the required resources when responding to unforeseen events and meeting operating needs. The purpose of this Fund Balance Policy is to establish reasonable guidelines tailored to the needs of the San Mateo County Library Joint Powers Authority (Library) which ensure that adequate funds are available to:

- Mitigate significant economic downturns or revenue shortfalls
- Cover future innovative opportunities related to system improvements
- Provide for future projects

Fund Balance is generally defined as the difference between fund assets and fund liabilities remaining at year-end. For budgetary purposes, this represents the sum of over-realized or unanticipated revenues and unspent appropriations or reserves at the end of each fiscal year.

The Policy aligns with the reporting standards outlined in GASB 54 (the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54, Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions). GASB Statement 54 established fund balance classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which a government is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources reported in governmental funds.

II. Fund Balance Goals

The following individual items shall constitute the Library Fund Balance.

Committed Fund Balance:

Committed Fund Balance consists of amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes determined by a formal action of the government's highest level of decision-making authority, in this case, the Governing Board. Commitments may be changed or lifted only by the Governing Board taking the same formal action that imposed the constraint originally. The Library has established two primary categories of Committed Fund Balance as follows:

- Stabilization Commitments, referred to in this policy as Operating Reserves, and
- Capital Project Commitments, referred to in this policy as Capital Reserves

Operating Reserves:

Governments often establish "rainy day funds" to provide a financial cushion against unanticipated adverse financial or economic circumstances. The Library is committed to maintaining a prudent level of financial resources to protect against the need to reduce service levels because of temporary revenue shortfalls or unpredicted one-time expenditures. Operating Reserves may be used to address temporary cash flow shortages, emergencies, unanticipated economic downturns, and one-time opportunities to stabilize current operations.

The Library shall maintain amounts equal to no less than fifteen percent (15%) of adopted general fund operating appropriations in the category identified as Operating Reserves (net appropriations exclusive of one-time activities).

*There is no nationally uniform standard regarding the appropriate level of unrestricted fund balance (i.e. the amounts reported as committed) local governments should maintain. However, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommends that..."general purpose governments maintain **at a minimum** an unrestricted fund balance of no less than two (2) months or 16.7% of regular general fund operating revenues or regular general fund operating expenditures. The adequacy of unreserved fund balance in the general fund should be assessed based upon a government's own circumstances. Furthermore, such measures should be applied within the context of long-term forecasting, thereby avoiding the risk of placing too much emphasis upon the level of unreserved fund balance in the general fund at any one time."*

Capital Reserves:

Capital Reserves may be used to address innovative opportunities related to operational improvements and asset replacement needs as approved by the Governing Board. Activities such as major equipment purchases, facility renovations, and system-wide projects are not specified in this policy statement, but are identified by the Library, as part of the annual budget development process.

The Library shall maintain amounts equal to no less than two million five hundred thousand (\$2,500,000) in the category identified as Capital Reserves.

III. Minimum Fund Balance Requirements

In the event funds are not available to maintain minimum required balances as detailed under Section II Fund Balance Goals; Committed Fund Balance, the Governing Board must approve and adopt a plan to restore this balance to the target level by adding an amount to the budget to cover the deficiency over a period not to exceed five (5) fiscal years. If restoration of the commitment cannot be accomplished within such period without severe hardship to the Library, then the Governing Board will establish a different time period or change the committed amount requirement.

IV. Utilization of Fund Balance

Appropriation of the Committed Fund Balance shall require the approval of the Governing Board and shall be only for one-time uses and not for ongoing expenditures unless a viable revenue plan designated to sustain the expenditures is adopted.

V. Annual Review

Compliance with the provisions of this policy shall be reviewed as part of the annual budget adoption process.



To: JPA Governing Board
From: Anne-Marie Despain, Director of Library Services
Date: June 10, 2025
Meeting: June 16, 2025
Re: Election of Library JPA Governing Board Officers

Background

The Bylaws for the San Mateo County Library Joint Powers Authority provide specific guidance regarding the election and terms of officers of the Governing Board.

Article IV. Officers:

- A. The Governing Board will elect a Chair and Vice Chair annually not later than June. Voting shall be public. The Chair and Vice Chair shall be voting members of the Governing Board. New officers shall assume office the first day (July 1) of the next Fiscal Year.
- B. It shall be the duty of the Governing Board Chair to preside at the meetings of the Governing Board, to call special meetings when necessary and to perform other duties as ordinarily pertain to the office of Chair. The Chair shall set the agenda in conjunction with the Library Director and the Operations Committee Chair.
- C. The Vice Chair shall have all the powers and duties of the Chair in his or her absence.
- D. The term of office for the Chair and Vice Chair shall commence as stated in paragraph A above, and run for a period of one year. No person shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms.
- E. Nominations for officers shall be made from the floor. Nominations shall be made by voting members of the Governing Board only. Nominations and election of the Chair shall precede nominations and election of the Vice Chair.
- F. A special election shall be called by the Governing Board if the Chair and/or Vice Chair is unable to serve a full term of office. The newly elected member shall serve the remaining term of that office and this remaining term shall be considered a term in determining consecutive terms.
- G. All officers shall serve without compensation.
- H. The Chair or Vice Chair may be removed from office at any time by majority vote of the Governing Board.

Discussion

Julia Mates, Chair, and Rick DeGolia, Vice Chair, were elected on February 3, 2025, to serve the remaining FY 2024-25 term, making them eligible to serve a second term.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with the approval of this item.

Recommendation

Invite nominations from the floor for the positions of Governing Board Chair and Vice Chair and conduct an election at the June 16, 2025 meeting.