



# TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

## SMC Library JPA Liaison Memo

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**TO:** Mayor and Members of the Town Council

**FROM:** Sarah Wernikoff

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 24th 2023

**RE:** May 15<sup>th</sup> San Mateo County JPA Library Governing Board Meeting

### OVERVIEW:

#### 1) Received Presentation of Recommended 23-24 Fiscal Budget

Proposed FY 2023-24 Recommended Budget is balanced. Total Sources and Total Requirements in the FY 2023-24 Recommended Budget are \$75M. Total Revenue is \$40.6M and Net Appropriations, or the total operating budget, is \$53M. Salaries and benefits comprise the largest expense and total \$25.5M, representing 48% of the total operating budget. The budget sets Operating Reserves at \$4.7M and Capital Reserves at \$17.4M in compliance with the JPA Fund Balance Policy (15%).

Key projects for FY 2023-24 include: building new makerspaces; upgrading library conference rooms to be hybrid meeting compatible; expanding adult literacy services; implementing strategic outreach initiatives, including additional library outposts and replacing our bookmobile; continuing to enhance materials and collections, increasing meals services; pilots to bring social supports into libraries and 7 new positions.

#### 2) Received Director's Report

- a. **Award:** San Mateo County Libraries named one of 30 finalists to receive the *Library Services Medal*, the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries.
- b. **Virtual Book Clubs:** SMC is now the first public library to offer *Fable*, a brand-new virtual book club, a year-long pilot.
- c. **Expanding Access to Internet:** *California Digital Navigators Program* is a resource that helps California residents find low-cost internet service and provides one-on-one personal assistance with technology needs, including the opportunity to learn foundational computer and Internet skills, create email accounts, and find online resources to assist with career development using the *Career Pathways* platform; assistance is available in English and Spanish.

- d. **Memory Lab:** A digital archiving service dedicated to the preservation of rare and obsolete media, including precious family and community memories. Locations include Atherton, Brisbane, and Half Moon Bay libraries, as well as through the mobile Memory Lab, which will tour our other locations this summer.
- e. **Power Up Afternoons:** Afterschool programs for K-12th grade students continues to grow and find popularity among families (6,054 students participated February – March alone); participants enjoy STEM, art, mental health, and self-care themed activities.
- f. **Atherton Library Awards:** One of five libraries in the nation to be recognized by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the American Library Association (ALA) and Sustainable San Mateo County; recognized for being a sustainability champion as a low-carbon, zero net energy-ready, all-electric project with modular, multiuse spaces and ample use of daylighting and natural ventilation.
- g. **EPA Library:** A site has been secured for the new East Palo Alto Library, City Council members approved the purchase of land next to the EPACenter on March 21, 2023.
- h. **Network Upgrades for Power Outages:** Investments in upgrading infrastructure to support communities during weather events, including upgrading the Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) units with additional batteries. Libraries to have from 2-4 hours of network “up time” when they lose power.
- i. **Success of Library of Things initiative:** ebikes, electric cooking, mobile cave simulation for students, etc.
- j. **DISCUSSION:** The role of our libraries has evolved way beyond books:
  - Mental health support needs in libraries
  - Supporting the needs of the ESL population and expanding literacy: 40% of library users do not speak English in the home – we need the budget to reflect investments in programs that support literacy and language skills.

3) **Teleconference Meetings:** The motion to continue hybrid meetings passed.