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CONTACT:

Dan Cohen, Full Court Press Communications

(510) 282-7621

dan@fcpccommunications.com



ALAMEDA COUNTY SUPERVISOR WILMA CHAN GATHERS COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE COMPLETION OF SAN LORENZO LIBRARY EXPANSION PROJECT

The \$10.3 million project is the first major exterior renovation of the library in 45 years and doubled the size of library to nearly 20,000 square feet.

SAN LORENZO, CA – Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan was joined by more than 100 members of the community at a ribbon cutting ceremony this morning to celebrate the official end of construction on the San Lorenzo Library expansion project. The \$10.3 million project is the first major exterior renovation of the library in 45 years and doubled the size of library to nearly 20,000 square feet.

“At long last, San Lorenzo has the expanded, state-of-the-art library it has dreamed of,” said Supervisor Wilma Chan, referencing the decades-long effort to upgrade the facility. Area residents have participated in neighborhood meetings, needs assessments, surveys and focus groups since 1991 to identify the community’s vision and priorities for a revitalized library. “The updated library will serve as a vibrant center of the community where families, students, small local businesses, and people of all backgrounds can access the educational tools and support services they need to succeed in life and career.”

Alameda County was pursuing a plan to double the size of the library when, in 2011, the state eliminated funding for the project in order to balance the state budget. Despite the loss of this funding, in 2012 Supervisor Chan secured \$90 million for economic development projects in unincorporated Alameda County. It is this funding that made the library expansion possible.

“Today we celebrate the first of many improvements that will greatly enhance our community over the coming years,” continued Supervisor Chan. “Additional funds from the \$90 million in redevelopment money that I saved are helping to finance the construction of senior apartments adjacent to the library, the Hesperian Boulevard streetscape project, and a civic plaza.”

The library is a LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) “Silver” certified building, verifying that it is a high performance green building – the first of its kind in San Lorenzo. The project was also the first project to benefit from Alameda County’s first-ever countywide Project Stabilization Agreement, or PSA (formerly known as a Project Labor Agreement). The PSA outlined expectations and benefits for the project with the Building & Construction Trades Council of Alameda County and its 28 affiliated unions to help to deliver the project.

New amenities at the expanded library include a 1,500 square foot community room, café, dedicated teen area, space for used book sales, additional public computers, and a learning center for small group classes and tutoring. New services include the checkout of laptops and tablets for use in the library, a 9-screen video wall for presentations and meetings, a book sorting machine to speed up library returns and shelving, and increased space to accommodate more than 85,000 items. The library also offers new technologies, including an iPad station, computers featuring educational software for young children, a gaming room, and an expanded public computer area complete with scan, print, and fax services.

“Libraries build communities by bringing together people of all ages and from all walks of life,” remarked Carmen Martinez, Alameda County’s Interim County Librarian. “The expanded San Lorenzo Library will offer visitors access to a range of new resources and more opportunities for people to connect with each other. I am so grateful for Supervisor Chan’s leadership in helping to make the San Lorenzo Library expansion a reality.”

The San Lorenzo Library serves the community of San Lorenzo and neighboring areas, including Ashland, Fairview, Cherryland and unincorporated Hayward. More than 70,000 people live in the library’s 8.6 square-mile service area.

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About Supervisor Wilma Chan

Alameda County Supervisor Chan represents District 3, which includes the cities of Alameda, San Leandro, parts of Oakland including Chinatown, Jack London, Fruitvale and San Antonio neighborhoods, and the unincorporated community of San Lorenzo. She is currently Vice President of the Board of Supervisors, Chair of the Health Committee, and a member of the County’s Personnel, Administrative, and Legislative Committee, the Budget Committee, and the Unincorporated Services Committee. For more on Supervisor Chan’s accomplishments and current initiatives, please visit www.acgov.gov/board/district3 or connect on Facebook with “Supervisor Wilma Chan.”