



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAYOR JERRY SANDERS
FACT SHEET

**AT LONG LAST, SHOVELS HIT GROUND
ON SAN DIEGO'S NEW CENTRAL LIBRARY**

Mayor Sanders joins hundreds of San Diegans at historic groundbreaking

Decades of hard work paid off today as the city broke ground on a new state-of-the-art central library, a \$185 million centerpiece of learning and civic engagement that will be built without any money from the city's operating budget.

"I couldn't be prouder of the countless people who have spent so much time and energy on making sure we arrived at this day," said Mayor Jerry Sanders, who led the groundbreaking ceremony. "Our work will pay dividends for future generations of San Diegans."

Sanders was joined by numerous supporters of the new library, including Joan and Dr. Irwin Jacobs (who have pledged \$20 million toward the project) along with dozens of other public figures and dignitaries.

"Joan and I are very pleased to join with so many others in our community to finally reach this very special day," Dr. Jacobs said. "We look forward to the library becoming a prime focus within the region for civic engagement, educational activities and pursuit of knowledge in its ever-expanding forms. We anticipate extended operating hours using the committed private resources to supplement city general funds."

Money for the project comes from several sources, not a penny of which could have been used for branch libraries or any other city services. The financing breakdown: \$80 million in

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Central Library Groundbreaking

July 28, 2010

Page 2 of 2

redevelopment money; a \$20 million state library grant; \$20 million from the San Diego Unified School District, which will use two floors for a charter school; and \$63 million in private donations (of which more than \$30 million has already been raised).

The nine-story building -- scheduled to open in 2013 -- will serve as the heart of the city's 35-branch library system and will be a new regional center for learning and literacy. It will have 400 computer workstations, free Wi-Fi access, a cafe and multiple community gathering spaces for events ranging from book readings to art displays and music performances.

Its 295,000 square feet will be more than twice the size of the current central library. An additional 76,000-plus square feet will be used for a charter school that will occupy the library's sixth and seventh floors. Another 129,000 square feet will be used for underground parking.

"We are grateful to the families who have contributed to this important project," Library Foundation Chair Mel Katz said. "These leaders had the vision and commitment to make this amazing day possible. We know new donors will be willing to step forward now that we've put shovels in the ground."

As early as the 1970s, city leaders recognized the need to replace downtown's current central library, which was built in the 1950s for a city with less than half the current population. Planning for a new library began in earnest in the 1990s. Over the past 20 years, work has ranged from seeking community input to finding the proper site to developing a world-class architectural design to raising private funds.

Among the library's numerous other features, it will utilize on-site solar power for some of its energy needs. The project will also create some 1050 construction jobs.

Within the next few weeks, citizens can monitor construction progress via a Webcam. Viewers can see the images by visiting the city's web site, www.sandiego.gov.

For information on the new library and how to support the project, please visit the San Diego Public Library Foundation's web site www.supportmylibrary.org or call 619-238-6638.

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