



**COUNCILMEMBER CHRIS CATE  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
SIXTH DISTRICT**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**DATE:** November 6, 2020

**TO:** Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer

**FROM:** Councilmember Chris Cate  
Councilmember Mark Kersey

**SUBJECT:** Opening Rancho Peñasquitos Library

We would like to thank you for the work your administration has done with the phased reopening of city services, including the safe, socially-distant reopening of 12 libraries throughout the city. As the 2020-2021 academic year continues through online learning, it is imperative that each student have access to all available resources in order to be as successful as possible during this time. The pandemic has highlighted the need to bridge the digital divide for all San Diegans. The library has always been the great equalizer for children and adults of all backgrounds, providing access to health information, learning resources, job searches, and for leisure.

While the City of San Diego has taken steps to reopen libraries in San Diego, these 12 reopened libraries are not accessible to all San Diegans. This greatly impacts the children and adults who rely on these resources, especially those from lower-income families.

The City of San Diego has safely and effectively reopened 12 libraries by limiting capacity to 25%, requiring face coverings at all times, utilizing temperature checks, and practicing social distancing, and these protocols enable us to safely open additional libraries.

For these reasons, we request that your office evaluate options to safely reopen the Rancho Peñasquitos library as soon as possible, as this can be done safely by following all social distancing, health, and sanitation guidelines.

cc: Misty Jones, Director, Library Department  
Jessica Lawrence, Director of Council Affairs, Office of the Mayor