



# Mayor Dick Murphy NEWS FOR RELEASE

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## **MURPHY, PETERS AND COMMUNITY KICK OFF GRAND RE-OPENING OF LA JOLLA RIFORD BRANCH LIBRARY**

### *And the Grand Opening of the Joan and Irwin Jacobs Annex*

**San Diego** - Mayor Dick Murphy and Councilmember Scott Peters today kicked off the grand re-opening of the La Jolla Riford Branch Library following a major expansion of the facility. The ribbon cutting ceremony was a major community event attended by many city and community officials as well as the generous donors.

"We are grateful to the Friends of the La Jolla Library and the many donors for all the work they did in the expansion of the La Jolla Riford Branch," said Mayor Murphy. "The expanded library will greatly improve its ability to serve the community. It's public-private partnerships such as these that will help us achieve my goal of building a 21st century library system."

The library was expanded from 10,000 square feet to 24,745 square feet. Both the original building, built in 1989, and the \$4.7 million expansion were designed by Architects Mosher Drew Watson Ferguson. The expansion and annex were made possible by gifts from Joan and Irwin Jacobs, the Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Foundation, Friends of the La Jolla Library and other generous donors.

"The true heroes of this library and its expansion are the La Jolla residents who contributed funding and worked closely on the project from its conception over a decade ago," said Councilmember Peters, a former president of the Friends of the La Jolla Library. "The La Jolla Riford Branch Library will enrich the community for many generations to come."

The new two-level expansion includes a children's library, young adult area, La Jolla history room, reading room, meeting rooms, and stacks capable of holding 120,000 books. The remodeling project also made room for a computer lab, which provides free wireless internet access to patrons, a Friends of the La Jolla Library store, and expanded collections. Public art and display space includes wrought-iron stair rails, sculpted light fixtures, a stained glass wall, and art and photo galleries.

Functionally efficient and sensitively integrated, a community meeting room is conveniently adjacent to the main entrance. An adult reading area offers a cozy fireplace, while a separate children's reading area incorporates scaled and inviting window seats. An exterior courtyard and fountain provide overflow reading space in a pleasant outdoor retreat. On-site parking areas are screened by low courtyard walls and a flowering landscape.

The expanded La Jolla branch library is part of the city of San Diego's \$312.3 million library building program that was approved by the Mayor and City Council in 2002. The program calls for building 13

new libraries and expanding 11 existing branches over the next 10 years.

Located at 7555 Draper Avenue, the La Jolla Riford Branch Library will be open Monday and Wednesday from noon to 8 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Library staff can be reached by calling 858-551-0519.

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