

NEWS RELEASE



Senator Dede Alpert ★ 39th Senate District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALPERT, MAYOR AND MADAFFER ANNOUNCE \$20 MILLION IN STATE FUNDING FOR NEW MAIN LIBRARY

San Diego – State Senator Dede Alpert (D – San Diego) today announced that the state Public Library Construction and Renovation Board has approved \$20 million to help pay for a new Main Library in San Diego. The total estimated cost for this project is approximately \$150 million.

“We are thrilled about receiving this funding for the new Main Library,” said Mayor Dick Murphy. “The new facility will be a major asset for the entire San Diego region. The new Main Library will be the heart of our Goal #7, to build a 21st century library system for all San Diegans.”

The new nine-story library will replace the current Central Library built in 1954 for a city population that was then 450,000. Today, San Diego has more than 1.27 million citizens. The Central Library is deficient in space and cannot adequately serve library patrons. Approximately 60 percent of the library’s collection is stored on two basement levels that are unavailable to the public.

To be located at 12th Avenue and K Street in downtown’s East Village, the new Main Library will be a state-of-the art facility fully equipped for the digital age. It will have 500 dedicated parking spaces and room for future expansion. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2004 and be completed in 2007.

“A key ingredient to the new Main Library project is a partnership between the city and the San Diego Unified School District,” said Councilmember Jim Madaffer. “The school district and the city will work closely to make the new Main Library a center of education and recreation for today’s youth and future generations.”

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The new Main Library is one of 24 city libraries that will be built or improved over the next 10 years as part of a \$312.3 million, system-wide program. The program's first project, a new branch library in Point Loma, opened Sept. 20.

A total of \$350 million in state funds will be distributed for library projects by the California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board through 2004 under Proposition 14, approved by voters in March 2000. Alpert was a co-author of Proposition 14 and a member of the board that approved the funds for San Diego.

"San Diego submitted an outstanding application," said Senator Alpert. "Residents of San Diego will enjoy a first-rate main library for generations."

The new Main Library was selected out of more than 60 applications submitted for this second round of Proposition 14 funding. During the first round of Proposition 14 funding, the city received \$5.35 million to build a new Logan Heights Branch Library. It will open in 2005.

There is one final round of Proposition 14 funding scheduled next year for which the city can apply. Proposition 14 money is only one of several funding sources the city is using to finance its library system improvement program.