



Mayor Dick Murphy NEWS FOR RELEASE

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CONTACT: Colleen Rudy

619.236.7060

Christopher Duggan

619.236.6688

MAYOR, INZUNZA AND MADAFFER BREAK GROUND ON OTAY MESA-NESTOR LIBRARY EXPANSION

San Diego - Mayor Dick Murphy and Councilmembers Ralph Inzunza and Jim Madaffer today broke ground for the expansion of the Otay Mesa-Nestor Branch Library with a community celebration. The library expansion is part of the city's \$312.3 million library building program that was approved by the Mayor and City Council in 2002.

"The expansion of the Otay Mesa-Nestor branch is a major step in our continuing plan to build a library system for the 21st century," said Mayor Murphy. "With more space, the library will be able to hold thousands more books and other materials, and will provide an improved environment for residents to learn."

The current 10,000-square-foot Otay Mesa-Nestor Branch will be expanded by 5,000 square feet, providing additional space for growing collections of library materials, larger meeting and conference rooms, and a computer lab. The project will also include repairs and improvements to the original building.

"The expansion of the Otay Mesa-Nestor Branch Library will be a major improvement for the community and will benefit not only today's children, but future generations as well," said Councilmember Inzunza. "This library will soon be an even better resource for education and recreation for local residents."

Located at 3003 Coronado Avenue, the \$4.6 million project has been designed by Safdie Rabines Architects. The library will be closed during construction beginning Friday, February 27. Construction is scheduled to be completed in mid-2005.

"The city is committed to moving forward to improve our library system," said Councilmember Madaffer. "We opened a new Point Loma-Hervey Branch in 2003, and we are scheduled to open an expanded La Jolla-Riford Branch this spring. Last week we broke ground on the College-Rolando Branch. We plan to break ground on a total of five library projects in this year."

The city's library building program calls for building 13 new libraries and expanding 11 existing branches over the next 10 years. Mayor Murphy and Councilmember Madaffer are working together to successfully implement the mayor's Goal #7, which is to build a strong, comprehensive city library system.

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