



Mayor Dick Murphy NEWS FOR RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: October 9, 2004

CONTACT: Colleen Windsor

619.236.7060

David Hicks

619.236.5929

WORK BEGINS ON NEW SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY

San Diego - Mayor Dick Murphy and Councilmembers Donna Frye and Jim Madaffer today broke ground for a new Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library with a neighborhood celebration. The new library project is part of the city's \$312.3 million library building program that was approved by the Mayor and City Council in 2002.

"The new Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch is another great step in our ongoing plan to build a library system for the 21st century," said Mayor Murphy. "Libraries are centers of knowledge and meeting places for the community. It's important that we provide the best facilities possible to encourage reading and continued learning for children and adults alike."

The new facility will be more than three times the size of the current facility. Located at 9005 Aero Drive, the approximately 15,250-square-foot Serra Mesa-Kearny Branch will include a large children's area, meeting and conference rooms, a larger collection of books and media and a computer lab with 30 computers. The new branch will replace the tiny 4,860-square-foot Serra Mesa Branch currently serving the area.

"Thanks to the hard work and perseverance of dedicated community volunteers, we have a great location and design for our new Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library," said Councilmember Frye. "Our new library will provide educational opportunities and serve as a cultural center for all members of our community."

The building will include green building technology and recycled materials. Per the community's request, the design borrows on the mission revival and craftsman styles. Windows will be plentiful and the many French doors in each area will allow natural ventilation during moderate weather. There will be three large courtyards, one in each main area of the library. Throughout the library there will be seating of various size and configurations, nooks, easy chairs, homework carrels and the like. The architect has designed many custom furniture pieces, and several artistic glass windows and ceramic tile motifs.

The \$9.9 million project has been designed by Coombs Architects & Planning. Construction is scheduled to be completed in April 2006.

"The city of San Diego continues to take important steps in improving our library system," said Councilmember Madaffer. "Since 2002, we have now either opened or begun construction on six libraries."

The city's library building program calls for building 13 new libraries and expanding 11 existing branches over 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.

###

