



San José Public Library

FACILITIES & CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE PLAN
DRAFT EXECUTIVE BRIEF



San José Public Library
Foundation



MARGARET SULLIVAN STUDIO

Letter from Matt Mahan Mayor, City of San José



Dear Community Members,

San José has always been a place where innovation and community come together to shape the future. From our agricultural beginnings in the Valley of Heart’s Delight to our role today as the Capital of Silicon Valley, our strength has always come from our people — and the institutions that help them succeed.

Libraries are central to that mission. Across our neighborhoods, they offer welcoming, accessible spaces where residents can learn, connect, and grow. Students rely on them as places to study and explore new ideas. Families depend on them for access to technology and educational resources. And community members use them to collaborate, build skills, and pursue new opportunities. From supporting entrepreneurship to advancing digital literacy and civic engagement, our libraries help ensure every resident can fully participate in our city’s economy and civic life. As San José continues to grow, we must make thoughtful, strategic investments in the spaces that serve our community. The Library’s Facilities and Customer Experience

Plan provides a clear, forward-looking roadmap to modernize and expand our library system over the next twenty years. Grounded in community input and careful analysis, this plan positions us to better serve a diverse and dynamic city of more than one million residents — while maximizing the long-term value of public investment. It also creates opportunities for flexible, adaptable spaces that can evolve alongside changes in technology, learning, and community needs. By investing in our libraries today, we are investing in the future of San José — strengthening the foundations of education, workforce readiness, and economic opportunity that will keep our city innovative, inclusive, and thriving for generations to come.

Thank you,

Matt Mahan
Mayor, City of San José

Letter from Jennifer Maguire City Manager, City of San José



Libraries are more than buildings - they are trusted public infrastructure that supports learning, workforce development, and digital access for all San José residents. With 25 neighborhood branches and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library serving more than one million people, the library system plays a critical role in supporting our city’s long-term economic vitality.

The Library’s Facilities and Customer Experience Plan reflects the City’s commitment to maintaining high-quality public services while planning responsibly for the future. Developed through extensive engagement with residents, community partners, and library staff, this plan establishes a strong framework to ensure library facilities remain responsive to its community needs. It identifies opportunities to modernize spaces, integrate new technology, and expand programming.

Libraries today support a wide range of services - from early learning and student success to workforce preparation, digital access, and learning programs for adults. They serve as hubs for collaboration, innovation, and civic engagement, helping residents build the skills and knowledge they

need to thrive. As San José continues to grow, ensuring that our library spaces can support these services requires thoughtful coordination, long-term planning, and careful stewardship of public resources.

At the City of San José, we approach this work through a shared commitment to One City, One Team. This plan reflects the collaboration of City departments, community partners, and library staff working together to deliver high-quality services and ensure that San José’s libraries continue to effectively serve residents for years to come.

I am grateful for the leadership of the Library team and the many partners whose contributions help ensure our libraries remain strong, responsive, and accessible community resources.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Maguire
City Manager, City of San José

Letter from Jill Bourne City Librarian, San José Public Library



San José Public Library is one of our city's most powerful community anchors, cultivating connection, learning, and opportunity. Every day, our libraries provide welcoming spaces where residents discover new ideas, develop skills, access technology, and connect with one another. They are places where curiosity is encouraged, learning is lifelong, and community comes together.

As San José continues to grow, so will our libraries. The Library's Facilities and Customer Experience Plan represents an important step in preparing our library system for the future. Over the past year, we engaged thousands of residents, local organizations, and City staff to understand how libraries are used today - and how they can continue to serve the needs of our city's diverse population.

Through this process, we heard clearly that libraries are deeply valued community spaces. At the same time, our branch libraries face increasing demand for modern learning spaces, access to enhanced technology, and programming that reflects the wide range of

interests and needs in our community. This plan provides a long-term strategy to guide reinvestment across the library system, ensuring that every neighborhood benefits. By aligning facility improvements with the needs of our city and service priorities, the plan helps ensure that our libraries continue to inspire exploration, foster innovation, and strengthen community for generations to come.

Investing in our libraries is an investment in San José's future. I am deeply grateful to the many residents and partners who helped shape this vision and who continue to support libraries as places of shared knowledge, creativity, and empowerment.

Sincerely,

Jill Bourne
City Librarian, San José Public Library





LIBRARY AS THE SOUL OF SAN JOSÉ

As the Valley of Heart’s Delight has transformed into the Capitol of Silicon Valley, this Plan positions the Library as a steward of shared history and community expression, reinforcing belonging, civic pride, and the social fabric that underpins strong and equitable library outcomes.

Throughout 2025, the San José Public Library (SJPL or Library) embarked on a complex 20-Year Facilities and Customer Experience Plan (Plan). Led by Margaret Sullivan Studio (MSS), this highly collaborative co-creation process was customized to enhance the strengths of a nationally leading library system, while bringing the most innovative methodologies in the industry today. The process ensures that SJPL’s impactful work in the realms of social, cultural, educational, and digital equity is supported by best-in-class facilities and human-centered activation strategies that MSS has developed in collaboration with leading and peer libraries throughout the country.

Building on the future-forward capital improvement plan in 2000, which resulted in an expanded system with libraries distributed throughout San José, this Plan incorporates an inclusive design process to ensure that library facilities support SJPL’s evolved educational strategies, deepen the expansion of cultural, civic, and social services that the community relies upon, address the innovative aspirations the process elicited from community members, and honor the creativity and imagination of the staff. This dynamic Plan is designed to be responsive, flexible, and adaptable to

the community’s interests, support long-term capital investment and sustainable facility stewardship, embrace technological advancements to enhance operations, leverage partnerships to optimize facility usage, and take advantage of a variety of City and County-wide development opportunities as they form.

Positioning the San José Public Library as a partner to the City, community, and economic development efforts, this Plan enables SJPL to grow with the City in times of prosperity. Conversely, this work positions the Library to be an essential partner to activate, expand, and synergize with community assets when financial uncertainties inevitably arise.

Most essentially, this Plan strengthens and elevates San José’s rich cultural stories, past, present, and future, which emerged through this process as one of the City’s greatest assets. Home to residents from around the world and a wide range of languages, San José is defined by its diversity, creativity, and lived experiences. Through thoughtful facility investments and service strategies, SJPL will support cultural placemaking that reflects the communities it serves, creating welcoming spaces that celebrate local identity, foster connection, and support civic life.

A Demonstration of Stewardship and Ongoing Investment

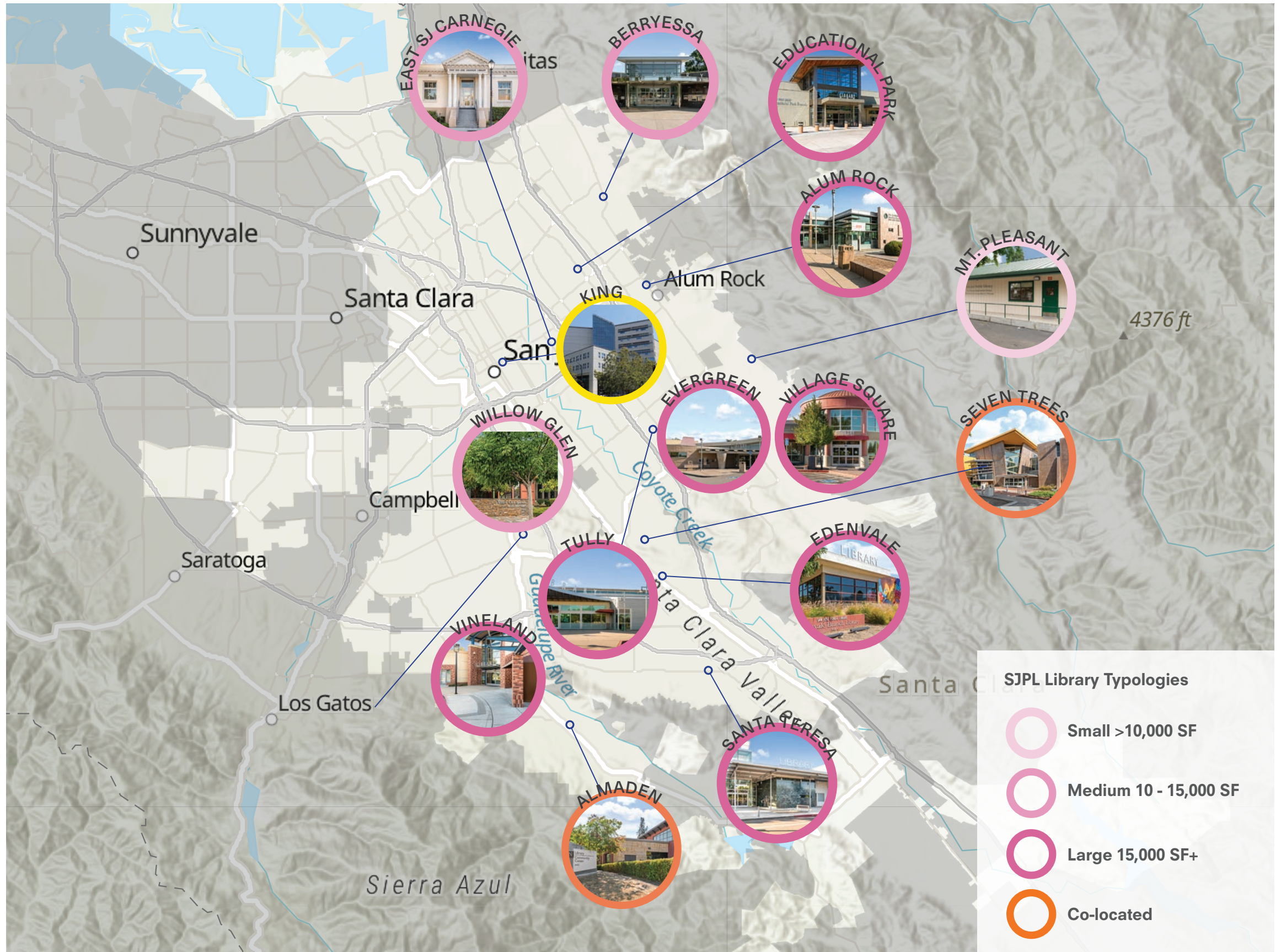
San José Public Library (SJPL) is one of California’s largest and most heavily used library systems, serving one of the state’s most diverse cities. As a trusted civic institution supporting education, digital access, and community life, SJPL plays a critical role in advancing opportunity across San José’s neighborhoods. Over the past year, the Library engaged residents, staff, partners, and civic leaders in a community-driven process to define the future of library facilities and services. The result is a 20-year Facilities and Customer Experience Plan outlining a responsible, equity-driven strategy for reinvestment, expansion, and long-term system growth.

This Plan builds on the success of the 2000 Library Bond Program, which expanded access to literacy, learning, and neighborhood library services across San José. However, the City’s growth and increasing demand for programs, technology access, and community space have placed new pressures on facilities designed for a smaller population.

The system’s central facility, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, serves as San José’s main library through its joint-use partnership with San José State University and continues to support residents citywide in that role.

As a result, this Plan focuses primarily on the performance and long-term sustainability of the neighborhood branch network. Analysis of service demand, geographic access, and facility capacity found that almost all of SJPL’s branches are not currently positioned to fully serve San José residents today or over the next 20 years.

Today, SJPL operates 24 branch libraries and the joint-use Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, totaling approximately 434,500 square feet across the branch system and 475,000 square feet at King Library, totaling about 909,500 square feet systemwide. This study establishes a long-term strategy to address facility deficiencies and bring the branch network closer to industry best practices for square footage per population served. Guided by branch service area populations and anticipated hyper-local population and demographic shifts over the next 20 years, the Plan recommends expanding the branch system to approximately 834,800 square feet, an increase of roughly 400,000 square feet, to support best-in-class library service in the decades ahead.



A Community and Data-Driven Case for Growth & Expansion

Libraries in San José are essential and increasingly overextended. While this Executive Brief focuses on the facilities investment needed across the system, the broader Facilities and Customer Experience Plan aligns this growth with long-term operational sustainability. Librarians noted that the ambition of SJPL’s programs has surpassed the ability of many existing buildings to adapt.

Staff identified a growing program gap across the system where services, partnerships, and community programming cannot expand due to space limitations. Systemwide evaluation also found that a majority of SJPL’s branches fall below best-practice square-footage benchmarks (0.75 square feet per capita).

Community engagement reinforced these findings through more than 4,400 touchpoints, including nearly 3,000 survey responses, engagement with 180+ partners, focus groups, workshops, and citywide outreach. Across communities and demographics, the message was consistent:

Libraries are trusted, loved, and heavily used. Facilities are undersized relative to demand. All libraries lack adequate and adaptable space for the current Education and Digital Literacy

Strategy programs and efforts. Partnerships identified opportunities for increased impact through additional community meeting rooms and programmatic variety.

Community members expressed strong appreciation for their libraries and identified clear opportunities to expand the types of spaces available within branches. Engagement findings highlighted strong demand for community gardens, reading gardens, outdoor learning areas, dedicated maker spaces, art galleries and studios, and flexible wellness and movement rooms. Partners also noted the importance of spaces that support nature-based learning, youth creativity, and shared community experiences. These findings reinforce the need for library facilities that can evolve to support contemporary roles while strengthening synergies among nearby public amenities and community services throughout San José.

Data analysis and equity mapping confirmed geographic disparities in service levels, identifying the need for approximately 400,300 additional square feet of library space to address current deficiencies and support community needs over the next 20 years. These findings demonstrate a clear need for SJPL to invest in the future of its library system.



A Strategic, Equity-Driven Growth Framework

This Plan does not propose growth for growth’s sake. It establishes a disciplined framework for aligning facility investment with:

- Strategic alignment with the Education & Digital Literacy Strategy, City and partner impact goals, and the San Jose Children and Youth Services Master Plan
- Service equity based on population growth and demographic shifts
- Equity Index data identifying areas of highest need for all San Joséans to achieve social and economic mobility
- Community partner capacity and co-location opportunities with existing public amenities
- Long-term SJPL operational sustainability including increased capacity needs

The growth strategy includes multiple potential pathways: reinvestment in existing branches, targeted expansions, new neighborhood libraries, co-location with other community centers, and strategic repositioning of the relationship between King Library and the branch network.

Under the recommended long-term strategy, the system grows to approximately 834,800 square feet, meeting the 0.75 square foot per capita benchmark and ensuring that library facilities align with current and projected service demand.

Strategic Roles for the Next 20 Years

Building on SJPL’s **City as Classroom** framework, this Plan maximizes the role of library facilities to effectuate the San José Children and Youth Services Master Plan and serve as:

- **City as Connected Communities** – strengthening neighborhood cohesion
- **City as Cultural Connector** – celebrating San José’s diverse identities
- **City as Civic Activator** – advancing participation, safety, and civic vitality

These roles directly support six measurable focus areas: Educational Success, Economic Wellness, Personal Health & Well-Being, Trust and Belonging, Cultural Identity, and Civic Vitality.



Why Now?

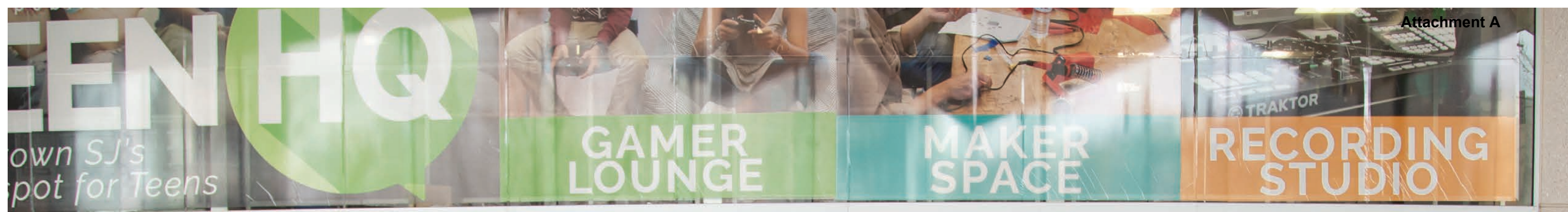
San José stands at a pivotal moment. Development patterns are shifting, and community needs are intensifying. As neighborhoods grow and diversify, demand for accessible spaces that support learning, connection, and opportunity continues to increase. At the same time, SJPL has demonstrated operational excellence, strong fiscal stewardship, and deep community trust, positioning the library system as one of the city's most valued and effective public institutions.

This Plan positions library facilities as essential civic infrastructure supporting educational outcomes, economic mobility, neighborhood safety, cultural vitality, and digital inclusion.

Alignment with the **San José Children and Youth Services Master Plan** strengthens the City's priorities in Early Learning and Childcare, Learning and Empowerment, and Meaningful and Sustaining Jobs. By expanding and modernizing library spaces, the system can continue to provide safe, welcoming environments where residents of all ages can access knowledge, technology, and community resources. Strategic capital investment will ensure the library system remains equitable, resilient, and capable of serving San José's next generation.

The proposed Plan represents an opportunity to build on past success, close documented service gaps, and secure a sustainable, community-driven future for San José Public Library.





A CASE FOR INVESTMENT

Alignment Maintenance & Vision Investments

Every 30 years, public libraries require an investment that is two thirds the cost to build new. This is based on an industry standard Facilities Condition Index (FCI) to measure maintenance and operations investments due to infrastructure demands.

The FCI is a benchmark in the facility industry to objectively assess the current and projected condition of building assets and anticipate future infrastructure investments in relation to maintaining the buildings for health and safety. FCI is calculated by the total cost of the existing

maintenance of a facility divided by its current replacement value. In evaluating the age of the buildings, nearly two thirds of the facilities will require significant investment in the next 10 years.

Anticipating future facilities needs (as shown on the right), it is both responsible and prudent for the City of San José and SJPL to align maintenance investments with the Plan. Thus, SJPL has the potential to increase impact for all residents of San José with a greater return than the cost of investment.



Every 30 years, facilities need substantial investment.

Branch	Year Built	Last Renovated	Years Since Intervention
Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Library	1998	2019	7
Village Square Library	2016	-	10
Bascom Library	2013	-	13
Educational Park Library	1976	2013	13
Seven Trees Library	1967	2013	13
Santa Teresa Library	1984	2010	16
East San José Carnegie Library	1911	2009	17
Joyce Ellington Library	1975	2008	18
Pearl Avenue Library	1971	2008	18
Willow Glen Library	1937	2008	18
Calabazas Library	1966	2007	19
Edenvale Library	2007	-	19
Hillview Library	1965	2007	19
Almaden Library	1971	2006	20
Cambrian Library	1961	2006	20
Evergreen Library	1976	2006	20
Rose Garden Library	1960	2006	20
Berryessa Library	1968	2005	21
Dr. Roberto Cruz Alum Rock Library	2005	-	21
Tully Community Library	2005	-	21
Vineland Library	2004	-	22
West Valley Library	1964	2003	23
Alviso Library	1934	1999	27
Biblioteca Latinoamericana Library*	1978	1999	27

■ Good Condition
 ■ Plan Updates Soon
 ■ Needs Intervention
 ■ Act Now

*Biblioteca design update underway

Room for San Joséans to Learn and Grow

To gauge how SJPL's facilities are performing, the Plan evaluated the system's facilities against industry best practices and national standards for library systems serving comparable populations and service areas. This benchmarking research examined peer library systems across the country to establish

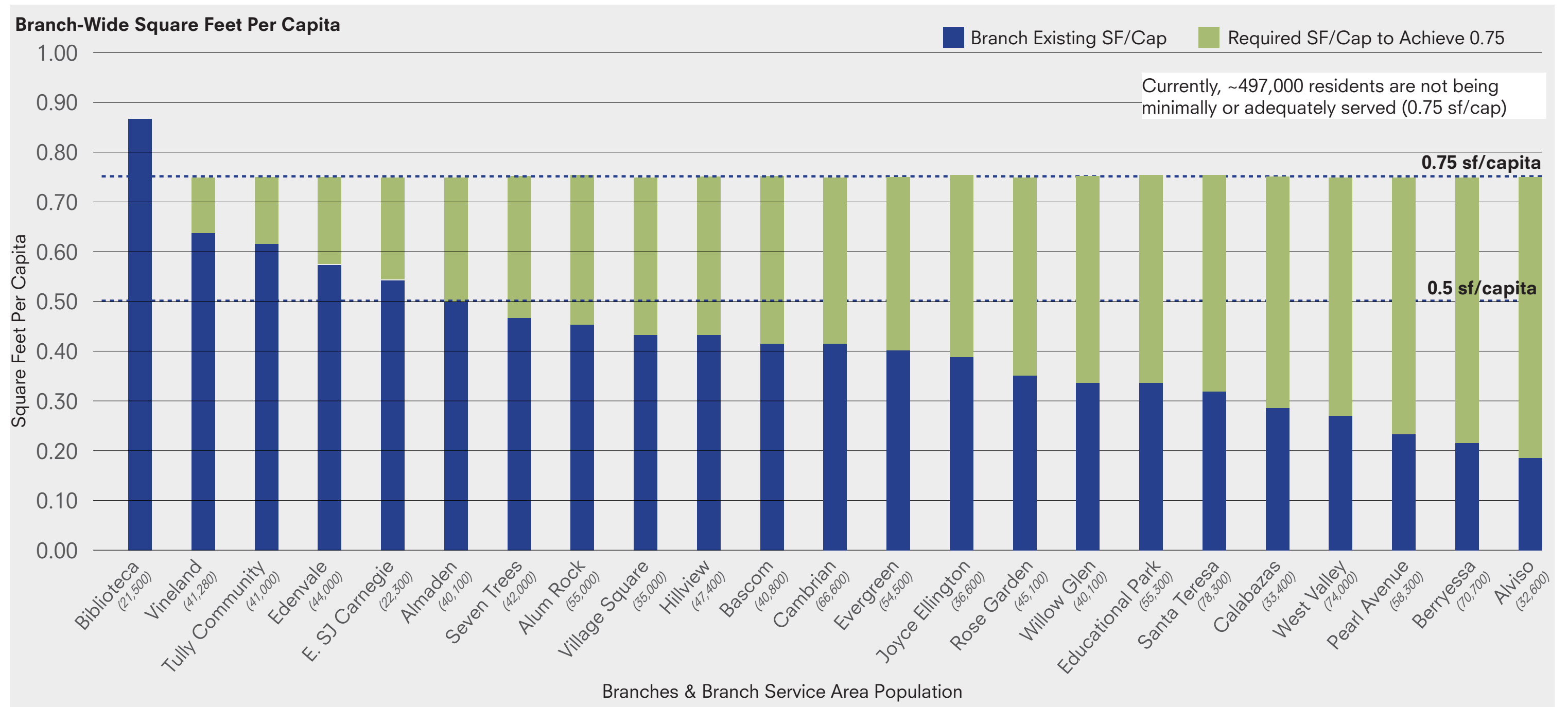
baseline metrics for square footage per population served, distribution of facilities relative to service area geography, and optimal branch sizing for effective service delivery. Square footage per capita measures how well physical library space aligns with the size and needs of the communities served. By comparing

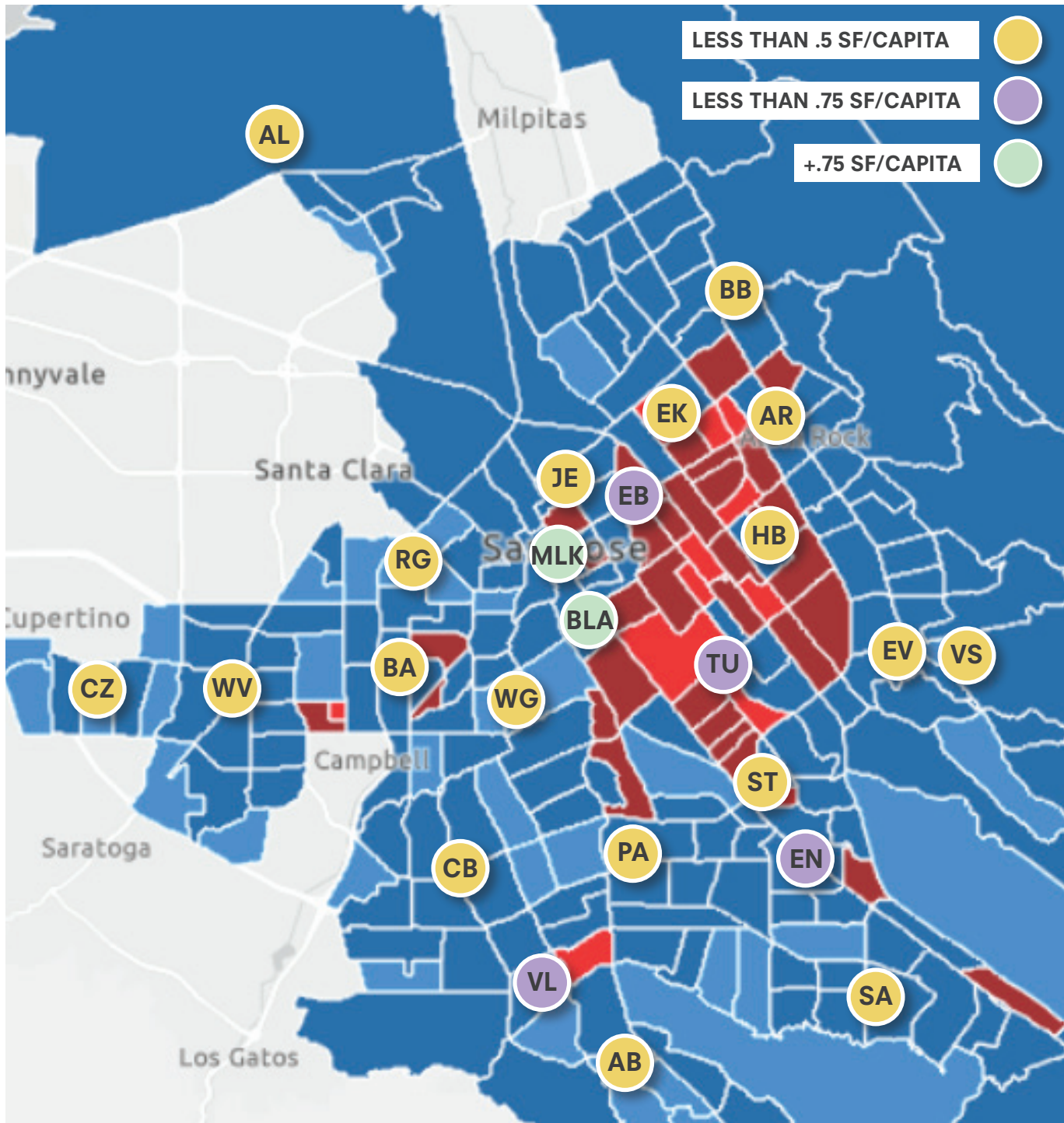
each branch's total square footage to its service area population, this metric reveals whether residents have sufficient access to space for reading, studying, gathering, programming, and other core services.

This analysis uses two benchmarks:

- **0.5 sf/capita** = residents are minimally served
- **0.75 sf/capita** = residents are adequately served (SJPL's 20-year goal)

As illustrated below, nearly 500,000 residents are not being adequately served with library services. Within this plan, 400,000 square feet would be intentionally added to the system.





Equity Index Score

- 70 to 120 = higher priority
- 60 to 70 = high priority
- 40 to 60 = aligns with most of SJ
- <40 = lower priority

Legend

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. AB- Almaden | 10. EK- Educational Park | 19. SA- Santa Teresa |
| 2. AL- Alviso | 11. EN- Edenvale | 20. ST- Seven Trees |
| 3. AR- Alum Rock | 12. EV- Evergreen | 21. TU- Tully |
| 4. BA- Bascom | 13. HB- Hillview | 22. VL- Vineland |
| 5. BB- Berryessa | 14. JE- Joyce Ellington | 23. VS- Village Square |
| 6. BLA- Biblioteca | 15. MLK- King | 24. WG- Willow Glen |
| 7. CB- Cambrian | 16. MP- Mt. Pleasant | 25. WV- West Valley |
| 8. CZ- Calabazas | 17. PA- Pearl | |
| 9. EB- East SJ Carnegie | 18. RG- Rose Garden | |

Benchmarks and Equity Analysis

Based on an assessment of the current service area populations, two-thirds of the Libraries are not meeting the recommended benchmark of 0.75 square feet per capita to achieve the goals of a best-in-class library system that will include providing a variety of program spaces to support strategic goals, to create adaptability and flexibility, and to serve the projected 20 year growth.

In San José’s diverse neighborhoods, this analysis identifies where investment is needed to right-size facilities, especially in high-growth or high-equity areas where spatial limitations constrain service delivery.

As shown on the map on page 14, the square feet per capita benchmarks by branch are layered with SJPL’s Equity Index Map. This combined analysis helps illustrate how existing library space aligns with the social, economic, and mobility characteristics of surrounding neighborhoods. By evaluating facility capacity alongside the Library’s established equity measures, the Plan identifies areas where additional investment can strengthen access to services and better support community needs. The analysis also highlights how factors such as transportation access, pedestrian connectivity, and broader neighborhood conditions influence how residents are able to reach and benefit from their local libraries.



2830

SURVEY RESPONSES

180

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

representing thousands of San José residents

9 FOCUS GROUPS

6 1:1 STAKEHOLDER CONVERSATIONS

3 LEADERSHIP & STAFF WORKSHOPS

1 COMMUNITY PARTNER BREAKFAST

1000+ VIVA CALLE COMMUNITY MEMBERS ENGAGED

Learnings From The Community

The Plan undertook an ambitious community engagement process, with inputs from an extraordinarily broad range of community members. Through three staff workshops, staff co-designed service concepts revealed consistent priorities: strong interest in skills exchange between generations, desire for large intergenerational community living rooms, emphasis on maker spaces and hands-on learning across all ages, wellness programming and sensory-rich celebrations of cultural diversity, and adaptable spaces with open layouts and portable equipment.

Cross-cultural and multi-generational themes emerged prominently, reinforcing the need for environments supporting San José's immigrant communities. Partners and stakeholders, including City and County leadership, emphasized positioning libraries as opportunity hubs embedded in all frameworks moving forward. This inclusive approach ensures the Plan reflects authentic community voice, needs, and aspirations across San José's diverse populations.



A Targeted Approach to Services

The purpose of the Facilities and Customer Experience Plan is to align organizational capacity and operational sustainability with facilities investment and expansion. Successful customer experiences depend on the effective activation of library buildings, referred to as “placemaking” and “placekeeping” in community economic development work.

With that guiding principle, this document supports recommendations for investment and expansion that are responsible within citywide operational budgets, coordinated with the broader portfolio of public amenities, and informed by a long-term public library capital improvement strategy.

The Facilities and Customer Experience Plan outlines a flexible framework for reinvestment, expansion, partnerships, and long-term system evolution. It presents multiple pathways for growth that can be implemented over time as funding opportunities, development patterns, and community priorities evolve.

This Executive Brief focuses on one central objective: closing the documented square footage deficit across the San José Public Library system over the next 20 years. The recommendations center on achieving the 0.75 square feet per capita benchmark and addressing service gaps in identified neighborhoods.

This Plan uses San José’s current population as a baseline while evaluating service needs based on the service area populations served by each branch library. When considered collectively, these service areas represent a planning population of approximately 1.1 million residents, reflecting both current demand and anticipated growth across the City. The strategy reflects a targeted approach that accounts for projected development patterns and localized demographic shifts. Specifically, the Plan: (1) establishes a long-term strategy to bring the branch system into alignment with industry best practices for square footage per population served; (2) uses service area populations for each branch community to guide the equitable distribution of library space; and (3) anticipates hyper-local population growth and demographic shifts over the

next 20 years. Together, these factors inform the recommendation to achieve the 0.75 square feet per capita benchmark across the system.

These square footage targets represent a measured, needs-based expansion strategy designed to align the library system with projected service demand, best-practice standards, and operational excellence.

While the Plan includes broader strategies related to partnerships, co-location opportunities, placemaking, operational innovation, and phased investment models, this Executive Brief focuses on the capital investments required to close the facility capacity gap. It clarifies the scale of investment needed to meet service benchmarks while maintaining the flexibility embedded in the larger Plan.

Grounded in documented service gaps and realistic planning assumptions, this Executive Brief reflects a fiscally responsible, data-driven approach to capital planning. It establishes a clear target for right-sizing the system while preserving flexibility to respond to future growth and evolving community needs.



The Aspirational 20-Year Vision

Investment and Development Possibilities

The table (right) illustrates the development possibilities and recommendations for each of San José Public Library’s branch sites. It identifies development opportunities across three strategic pathways:

- **Renew & Sustain (\$800/sf):** branches can be modernized through interior renovations and strategic reconfiguration of current space,
- **Growth on Site (\$1,200/sf):** Branches with available land, structural capacity, or underutilized outdoor/parking areas can accommodate physical additions without land acquisition costs.
- **Co-Locate (\$1,200/sf):** Branches in urban growth areas can grow in and with future development in the area through co-location.
- **Build New (\$1,200/sf):** Full replacement of select facilities where lifecycle performance, resilience, and long-term efficiency warrant new construction.
- **Potential to Build New (\$1,200/sf):** Some existing library sites have Public-Quasi-Public (PQP) zoning that allows significantly larger buildings than currently exist. While not required to achieve this Plan’s square footage targets, these sites could accommodate larger development if community needs or opportunities warrant.

FF&E (\$50 per square foot) is not included in these scenarios.

Investment Scenarios to Guide Decision-Making

To support thoughtful phasing and funding alignment, the Plan outlines scalable investment scenarios:

Short-Term Reinvestment – Renovation and modernization of existing facilities (no added square footage) to address deferred maintenance and improve functionality.

Recommended Long-Term Growth – Renovations, targeted expansions, and five new branches, bringing the system to approximately 834,800 square feet plus King Library.

These scenarios are not mutually exclusive. The Plan provides a flexible framework that allows the City to align investment levels with funding availability, development timing, and community priorities.

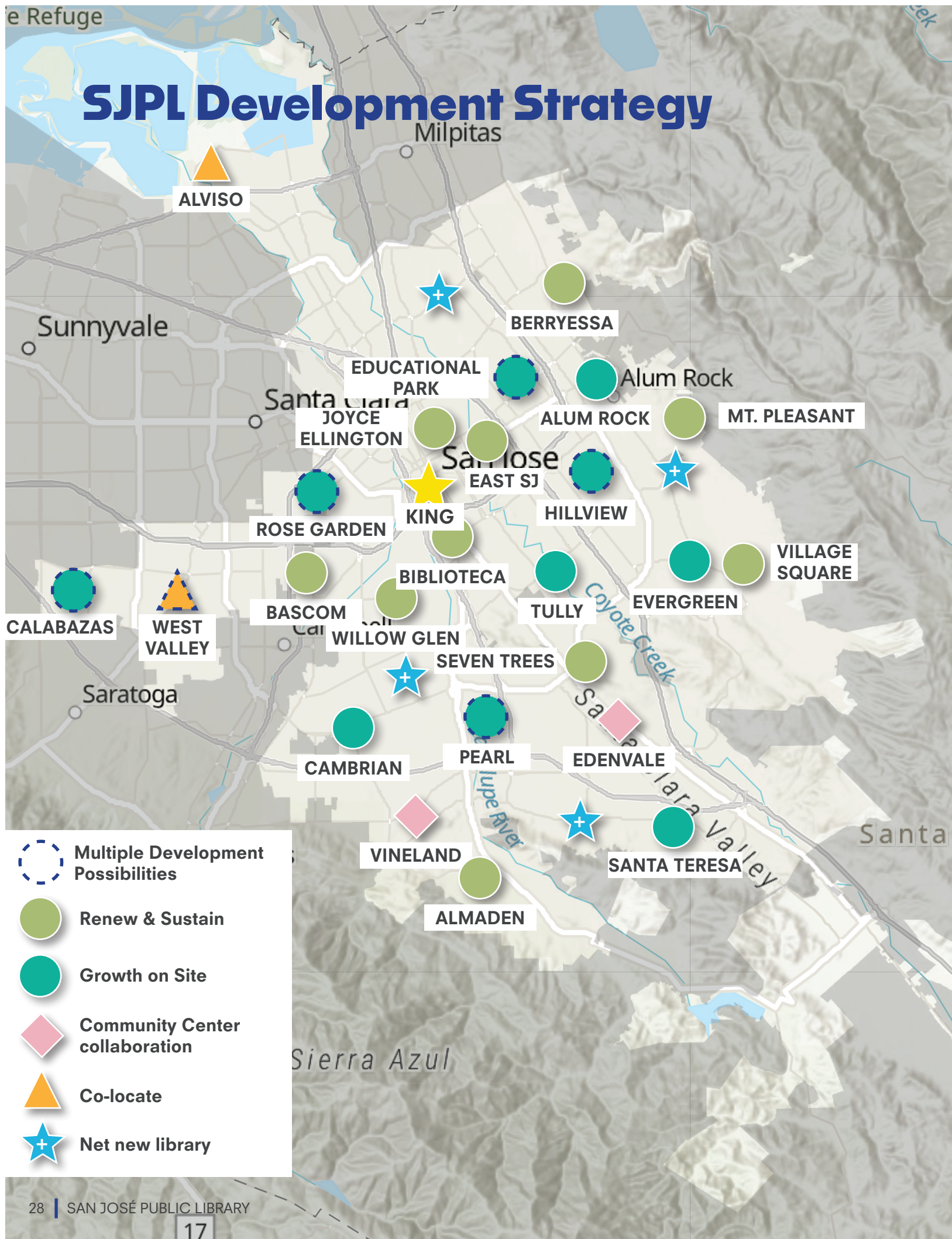
SJPL Branches in the chart on page 21 are in order of the recommended project phasing, further detailed on starting on page 26.



SJPL's first branch: East San Jose Carnegie Library

Branch	Renew & Sustain	Growth on Site	Co-Locate	Attachment A	
				Build New	Potential to Build New
Alviso Library			✓		
West Valley Library	✓	✓	✓		✓
Vineland Library	✓	✓			
Tully Community Library	✓	✓			✓
Dr. Roberto Cruz Alum Rock Library	✓	✓			✓
Berryessa Library	✓				✓
Rose Garden Library	✓	✓			✓
District 4 Net New Library **				✓	
Evergreen Library	✓	✓			✓
Cambrian Library	✓	✓			✓
Almaden Library (co-located)	✓				
Hillview Library	✓	✓			✓
Edenvale Library	✓				✓
Calabazas Library	✓	✓			✓
Willow Glen Library	✓				
District 8 Net New Library **				✓	
Pearl Avenue Library	✓			✓	✓
Joyce Ellington Library	✓	✓			✓
East San Jose Carnegie Library	✓				✓
Santa Teresa Library	✓	✓			✓
Seven Trees Library (co-located)	✓				
District 6 Net New Library **				✓	
Educational Park Library	✓	✓			
Bascom Library (co-located)	✓				✓
Village Square Library	✓				
Biblioteca Latinoamericana Library	✓	<i>Renovation planned for 2026-2028</i>			
Mt. Pleasant Bridge Library					
District 10 Net New Library**				✓	
District 5 Net New Library**				✓	

**Identify new site



SJPL Development Strategy

As illustrated in the map on page 24, the development strategy for SJPL is intentionally designed to remain adaptable and responsive to future conditions. While the Plan outlines clear recommendations for each of the 24 branches and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, it also acknowledges the importance of flexibility in facility planning over a 20+ year horizon.

Several library locations are marked with a dashed blue circle, indicating multiple development possibilities. This Plan considers factors such as changing neighborhood needs, land use decisions, partnerships, and future infrastructure development. Each branch is further explored in the individual Branch Profiles, which detail the rationale for each recommendation and scenario. This flexible approach allows SJPL to:

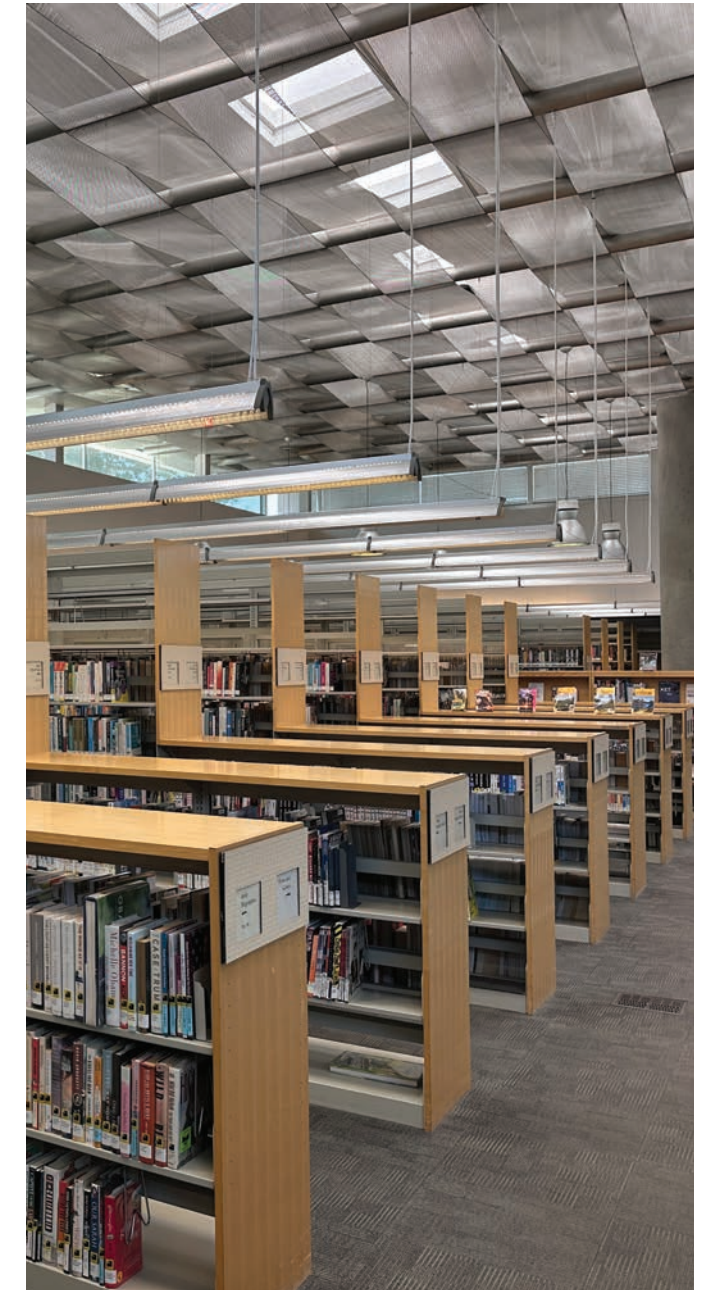
- Respond to community growth and shifting demographics over time, ensuring services remain equitable and accessible.
- Adapt to land availability and real estate changes, allowing for recapture, expansion, or relocation when more favorable opportunities arise.
- Pursue innovative co-location opportunities, such as collaborations with community centers, schools, or housing developments.
- Pilot new models for library design and use, particularly in areas with overlapping needs or where new service delivery methods (outdoor spaces, flexible interiors) could have greater impact.

By allowing multiple development paths for several locations, SJPL preserves its ability to stay nimble and user-focused in a rapidly evolving urban environment.

This vision for SJPL’s future creates new and dynamic collaborations with San José’s libraries and community centers, encourages innovative facility growth alongside future development, envisions new opportunities for SJPL’s existing parcels, identifies where library interiors can improve for their communities, and recaptures outdoor space for a more exciting library experience.

Expanding the System

As part of SJPL’s long-term vision, this Plan recommends the addition of five net new library facilities to serve areas of San José with growing populations, underserved communities, and limited library access. These new libraries aim to address gaps in service and provide innovative and inclusive spaces that respond to the unique character of each community.



West Valley Branch, Recommended to grow with new development or expand on existing site

Phasing Strategy



	Existing SF	New SF	Renew & Sustain*	Growth on Site	Co-Locate/ Build New	
ALVISO	6,050	24,350	\$4.84M		\$21.96M	Phase 1 \$298.512M (total project cost)
WEST VALLEY	21,000	55,500	\$16.8M		\$41.4M	
VINELAND	26,000	41,000	\$20.8M	\$32.8M		
TULLY COMMUNITY	25,500	31,000	\$20.4M	\$27M		
ALUM ROCK	26,000	41,000	\$20.8M	\$38.8M		
BERRYESSA	15,000	23,000	\$12M	\$18.4M		
ROSE GARDEN	18,500	34,000	\$14.8M	\$33.4M		
District 4 New Library	0	25,000			\$35M	
EVERGREEN	21,500	41,500	\$17.2M	\$41.2M		Phase 2 \$279.264M (total project cost)
CAMBRIAN	27,000	50,000	\$21.6M	\$49.2M		
ALMADEN	20,000	20,000	\$16M	\$16M		
HILLVIEW	21,000	35,500	\$16.8M	\$34.2M		
EDENVALE	25,000	25,000	\$20M			
CALABAZAS	10,400	25,400	\$8.32M	\$26.32M		
WILLOW GLEN	13,500	13,500	\$10.8M			
District 8 New Library	0	25,000			\$35M	
PEARL AVENUE	14,000	44,000	\$11.2M		\$52.8M	Phase 3 \$194.88M (total project cost)
JOYCE ELLINGTON	14,500	27,500	\$11.6M			
EAST SJ CARNEGIE	12,000	12,000	\$9.6M			
SANTA TERESA	25,000	39,500	\$20M		\$37.4M	
SEVEN TREES	20,000	20,000	\$16M			
District 6 New Library	0	25,000			\$35M	
EDUCATIONAL PARK	18,000	41,500	\$14.4M	\$42.6M		
BASCOM	18,000	18,000	\$14.4M			
VILLAGE SQUARE	16,000	16,000	\$12.8M			Phase 4 \$185.376M (total project cost)
BIBLIOTECA**	18,350	18,350	\$14.68M			
District 10 New Library	0	25,000			\$35M	
District 5 New Library	0	25,000			\$35M	

***Renew & Sustain
An Explanation of "Quick Wins"**

These are targeted investments in existing facilities to realign interior space and recapture underutilized areas, optimizing buildings for current public use without adding square footage. These improvements also focus on activating existing outdoor spaces for programming and community use. At \$800 per square foot of existing library space, this approach emphasizes interior renovation and reconfiguration to enhance functionality, flexibility, and program delivery. Distinct from the broader phasing strategy and the SJPL development strategy, it illustrates the level of investment required to modernize and better utilize each library within its current footprint.

As illustrated in the legend below, the grey dollar amounts show the cost for quick wins in each branch, while 8 branches will show in the phasing colors as the recommendation for the development strategy.

Legend

-  Quick Wins
-  SJPL Development Strategy

Budget & Phasing Strategy

The Plan organizes recommended projects into a clear investment framework that prioritizes both immediate needs and long-term system growth. Projects are grouped to reflect where investment will have the greatest impact, beginning with targeted improvements to existing facilities and extending to strategic expansion opportunities across the system.

The Renew & Sustain category represents targeted reinvestment in existing facilities, focused on realigning interior spaces, recapturing underutilized areas, and activating outdoor spaces for programming. These improvements optimize buildings for current use without adding square footage and reflect a cost-effective strategy to enhance functionality and service delivery across the system's existing footprint. The Growth on Site category includes expansions

and additions at existing branch locations where capacity can be increased to better meet community demand. The Co-Locate / Build New category identifies opportunities to deliver new or expanded library facilities through partnerships, co-location with other civic amenities, or new construction in underserved or high-growth areas.

Together, these investment categories represent a comprehensive, systemwide approach to improvement. Project costs are based on a dollar-per-square-foot methodology, with an additional 20% applied to account for soft costs. This framework provides a practical and flexible roadmap for implementation while reinforcing the study's central conclusion: that a strategic, system-wide investment is necessary to enable SJPL's libraries to meet the needs of San José residents today and over the next 20 years.

Quick Wins

Renew & Sustain
(All existing branches)

\$415,008,000

SJPL Development Strategy

Renew & Sustain
(Recommendation for select 8 branches)

\$131,856,000

+

Growth on Site

\$431,904,000

+

Co-Locate/ Build New

\$394,272,000

Overall Cost

\$958,032,000



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San Jose Youth Commission:

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- Margaret Sullivan
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- | | | |
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