
FW: California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

Date Thu 6/4/2026 7:36 AM

To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

From: Anna Rosenbluth <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 5:42 PM

Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget

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Hello,

I am writing to urge you to maintain funding for the California Room at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in the 2026–27 budget (and beyond!). As a fellow steward of local history, the Campbell Museums rely on the CA Room when conducting research on Campbell and when developing exhibits for our visitors.

For more than a century, the California Room and its dedicated librarians have preserved the history of San José and Santa Clara Valley through an irreplaceable collection of books, photographs, maps, archives, and historical records explored by thousands of students, educators, researchers, and community members every year. The work they do is critical for keeping this history, our history, accessible.

Closing this invaluable public resource to save just 0.6% of the overall City Library budget would be a devastating and short-sighted decision, especially as San José prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary in 2027. I ask you to protect the California Room, preserve public access to our shared history, and demonstrate that San José values its cultural heritage and civic memory.

Sincerely,

Anna Rosenbluth (she/her)

Collections Specialist

[REDACTED]



FW: California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 6/4/2026 7:36 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

From: Eleanor Nguyen -27 <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 7:35 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]> Maguire, Jennifer
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> Bourne, Jill <[REDACTED]>
District1 <[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]>
District4 <[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]>
District7 <[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]>
District 10 <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget

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I urge you to maintain funding for the California Room at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in the 2026–27 budget. For more than a century, the California Room and its dedicated librarians have preserved the history of San José and Santa Clara Valley through an irreplaceable collection of books, photographs, maps, archives, and historical records explored by thousands of students, educators, researchers, and community members every year. Closing this invaluable public resource to save just 0.6% of the overall City Library budget would be a devastating and short-sighted decision, especially as San José prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary in 2027. I ask you to protect the California Room, preserve public access to our shared history, and demonstrate that San José values its cultural heritage and civic memory.

Sincerely,
Eleanor Nguyen,

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FW: California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 6/4/2026 7:36 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

From: Jared Garcia <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 7:45 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]> Maguire, Jennifer
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> Bourne, Jill <[REDACTED]>
District1 <[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]>
District4 <[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]>
District7 <[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]>
District 10 <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget

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I urge you to maintain funding for the California Room at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in the 2026–27 budget. For more than a century, the California Room and its dedicated librarians have preserved the history of San José and Santa Clara Valley through an irreplaceable collection of books, photographs, maps, archives, and historical records explored by thousands of students, educators, researchers, and community members every year. Closing this invaluable public resource to save just 0.6% of the overall City Library budget would be a devastating and short-sighted decision, especially as San José prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary in 2027. I ask you to protect the California Room, preserve public access to our shared history, and demonstrate that San José values its cultural heritage and civic memory.

Sincerely,
Jared Garcia

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FW: California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 6/4/2026 7:36 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

From: Amy Ly <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 7:50 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]> Maguire, Jennifer
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> Bourne, Jill <[REDACTED]>
District1 <[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]>
District4 <[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]>
District7 <[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]>
District 10 <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget

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Dear San Jose representatives,

I urge you to maintain funding for the California Room at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in the 2026–27 budget. For more than a century, the California Room and its dedicated librarians have preserved the history of San José and Santa Clara Valley through an irreplaceable collection of books, photographs, maps, archives, and historical records explored by thousands of students, educators, researchers, and community members every year.

Closing this invaluable public resource to save just 0.6% of the overall City Library budget would be a devastating and short-sighted decision, especially as San José prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary in 2027. I ask you to protect the California Room, preserve public access to our shared history, and demonstrate that San José values its cultural heritage and civic memory.

Sincerely,
Amy Ly
San Jose District 4

FW: Public Comment for June 8 Council Hearing on 2026-2027 Budget; Item 3.1

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

Date Thu 6/4/2026 11:22 AM

To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

From: Greg Ripa <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 11:21 AM

To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

Cc: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan

<[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Public Comment for June 8 Council Hearing on 2026-2027 Budget; Item 3.1

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Dear Mayor Mahan and Members of the San José City Council,

I am writing to formally voice my strong opposition to the permanent closure of Ewert Road and, specifically, the allocation of city funds to build fencing to block off this vital corridor of an existing bicycle facility. In a fiscal climate defined by a substantial municipal budget shortfall, spending taxpayer dollars to actively restrict existing active transportation infrastructure is fiscally irresponsible and counterproductive to our city's well-being.

Flawed Logic and Safer Alternatives

At the May 18, 2026, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting, Director of Aviation Mukesh (Mookie) Patel indicated that the airport is waiting on new fiscal year funding to construct a fence, gate, and/or barrier to block Ewert Road to cyclists. The rationale provided for this closure lacks logical consistency:

- **Perimeter Security:** It was argued that the public could approach perimeter fencing here; however, this is equally true on the south side of the airport near I 880 today.
- **Staff/ Traffic Safety:** An accident between a staff/ police vehicle and a non motorized user was cited as a catalyst. Closing public infrastructure is an extreme, backwards reaction to a traffic conflict that can easily be mitigated through other measures. In fact, Hexagon Transportation Consultants, in their 2020 Airport Master Plan Transportation Analysis, recommended adding sidewalks to this corridor.

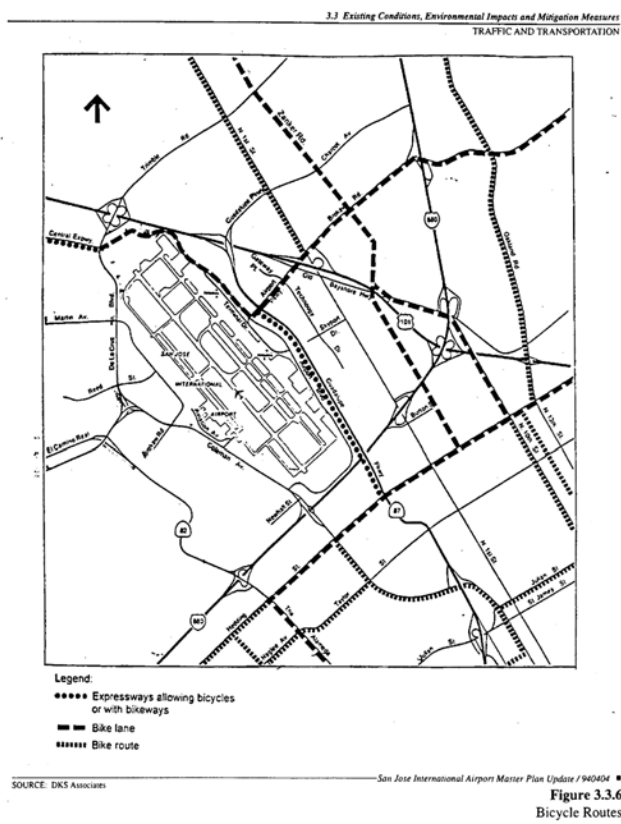
Even if allocated airport funds are restricted to airport property and cannot be redirected to the General Fund, they should be used responsibly. Instead of building a barrier, the airport should use these funds to **restripe Ewert Road** and install a two-way shared use path to safely separate cyclists and staff vehicles.

Obligations of Resolution No. 65037 and TDA Article 3

The proposed closure directly violates the spirit and terms of the city's historical funding commitments. In 1993, the San José City Council passed **Resolution No. 65037**, approving Transportation Development Act Article 3 (TDA3) Funding specifically to design and construct the "San José International Airport Bike Path" along this northern perimeter.

By accepting these funds, the City agreed to abide by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Resolution No. 875, which created policies including that **"a jurisdiction agrees to maintain the facility."** This is similar to the Council adopted agreement made for the current round of TDA3 funding at the June 2, 2026 City Council meeting: MTC requires the City Council to adopt a resolution, which it did 11 0, making certain findings such as that "the City agrees to maintain, or provide for the maintenance of, the project(s) and facilities... for the benefit of and use by the public". Maintenance of these facilities is key to creating a walkable and bikeable city that furthers San Jose General Plan goals and policies as well as Vision Zero goals. Erecting a fence to permanently block cyclists is a bad faith breach of the covenant the Council made when accepting this TDA3 grant.

Below is a map from 1997 showing the existing bicycle facilities near the airport:



This map shows Ewert Road as an existing bicycle facility, per the TDA Article 3 grant construction. This route is consistently shown as a bicycle route through various plans and reports through to the 2020's.

Contradicting the City Manager and Mayor's Budget Priorities

This unnecessary expenditure directly defies the City Manager's directive regarding our current fiscal crisis:

"Fully resolving the ongoing General Fund shortfall in a fiscally responsible manner with minimal community or employee impacts."

Fencing off Ewert Road does the exact opposite: it inflicts a direct, negative impact on community mobility while wasting resources. If any flexible city funds are being utilized for this project, they should be redirected to the core priorities outlined in the **Mayor's March Budget Message: Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness, Cleaning Up Our Neighborhoods, Increasing Community Safety, Growing Our Economy, and Building More Housing.**

Direct Violations of the San José General Plan & Vision Zero

Ewert Road serves as the only safe, direct detour for commuters and cyclists when the Guadalupe River Trail's US-101 underpass experiences regular winter flooding. Permanently closing it directly undermines several **General Plan Goals and Policies:**

- **Goal TR-1 & TR-2:** Mandates the City "complete and maintain a multimodal transportation system that gives priority to the mobility needs of bicyclists" and make cycling "convenient, comfortable, and safe." Closing this route makes commuting less convenient and less safe.
- **Policy TR-9.3:** Commits to enhancing the travel experience to "encourage mode shift." Forcing cyclists onto high stress, dangerous alternative routes achieves the opposite.
- **Policy TN-2.3:** Dictates that the City "maintain necessary infrastructure to facilitate the use of trails as transportation." Because Ewert Road acts as the primary winter flooding bypass, it *is* necessary trail infrastructure.
- **Policy TN-3.3:** Requests the City "provide safe and secure routes for trails and to minimize at grade intersections with roadways." The Ewert detour requires only **2 intersections**. The eastern alternative routes force cyclists through **7 or more dangerous intersections**, drastically increasing collision risks.

And the 2025 Vision Zero Action Plan is organized around five Priority Action Areas, including 1) Prioritize Equity and Vulnerable Road Users, and 4) Engineer for Safety. Closing the road does not prioritize vulnerable road users since it may direct those users into unsafe corridors. Closing the road does not engineer for safety since the project is not trying to accommodate vulnerable road users through engineering solutions such as creating a shared use path.

These violations should be reason enough to direct the Airport to not use funds to close the roadway.

Conclusion

Closing off a functional transportation corridor is a step backward for San José's climate, safety, and fiscal goals. I urge the City Council to direct the Director of Aviation, and any other staff, to halt any plans to fence, gate, or close Ewert Road, and instead redirect that funding to focus on solutions that preserve community access.

Thank you,
Greg Ripa

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