
Fw: REAL Coalition Solidarity Letter Calling to Protect Affordability, Equity, and Community Stability in the FY 26-27 Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

Date Thu 4/23/2026 3:08 PM

To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

 1 attachment (153 KB)

Solidarity Sign On Letter Protect Affordability FY27 San José Budget (1).pdf;

[REDACTED]

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2026 8:10 AM

To: Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Fw: REAL Coalition Solidarity Letter Calling to Protect Affordability, Equity and Community Stability in the FY 26-27 Budget

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Gianella Ordonez <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2026 5:59 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2

< [redacted] District3 < [redacted] Tordillos, Anthony
< [redacted] District4 < [redacted] District5 < [redacted]
District 6 < [redacted] District7 < [redacted] District8 < [redacted]
District9 < [redacted] District 10 < [redacted]
Cc: Kolander, Grace < [redacted] Fleming, Jonathan < [redacted]
Hughes, Scott < [redacted] Mauro, Joseph < [redacted] Gomez, David A
< [redacted] Solivan, Erik < [redacted] Maguire, Jennifer
< [redacted] Treseler, Dominic < [redacted] Moreno, Brisa
< [redacted] Nguyen, Lam < [redacted] Wang, Justin
< [redacted] Lester, Elise < [redacted] Fruen, Joseph
< [redacted] Zarate, Sarah < [redacted] Caines, Stephen
< [redacted] Yamamoto, KiyomiH < [redacted] Ramirez, Lucas
< [redacted] Flores Shelton, Andrea < [redacted] Lee, Lynn
< [redacted] Matt King < [redacted] Schembri, Jennifer
< [redacted] Shannon, Jim < [redacted]
Laveroni, Kyle < [redacted] Gvatua, Alexander
< [redacted] Adera, Teddy < [redacted] City Clerk
< [redacted] Policy Team < [redacted]

Subject: REAL Coalition Solidarity Letter Calling to Protect Affordability, Equity, and Community Stability in the FY 26-27 Budget

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

Some people who received this message don't often get email [redacted]

[Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Foley, Councilmembers, and City Staff,

Please see the attached **REAL Coalition Solidarity Letter** calling to protect affordability, equity, and community stability in the FY26-27 budget, signed by **65 community-based nonprofit organizations** and community leaders.

We look forward to your discussion on this topic.

Best,

Gianella Ordoñez | Policy + Advocacy Associate

Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits

[redacted] | [svcfn.org](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#)

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Registration is open for SVCN's inaugural Nonprofit Convergence conference!



This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager. This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute, or copy this e-mail.

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

April 22, 2026

San José City Council
San José City Hall
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San José, CA 95113
Sent via electronic mail

Protect Affordability, Equity, and Community Stability in the FY 2026–27 San José Budget

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

We, the undersigned 65 organizations and community leaders, write in solidarity to urge the City of San José to protect and strengthen the programs and services that help residents remain housed, safe, and economically stable during the FY 2026–27 budget process.

Affordability Context

We recognize that this is a difficult budget year. We also recognize that budget decisions are not neutral. In a city facing deep affordability challenges, cuts to prevention, stabilization, and community-based services will fall hardest on those already carrying the greatest burdens, particularly Black residents, Latino residents, immigrant communities, older adults and people with disabilities, low-income families, and residents in historically underinvested neighborhoods.

As the City navigates a challenging fiscal year, our broad coalition has worked to advance key priorities. The City Council's vote on the March Budget Message marked important progress, such as moving forward Working Families Housing, an innovative approach to financing new homes. At the same time, we urge the Council to consider and act on additional community priorities in the coming months.

San José residents continue to make one thing clear: affordability is the defining challenge facing our city. At a time when families are struggling with housing costs, childcare costs, economic insecurity, and fear of displacement, the City must do more – not less – to protect the community supports that prevent crises and preserve stability.

Coalition Priorities

We therefore urge the City Council to prioritize the following investments and protections in the FY 2026–27 budget:

1. Fund an eviction representation pilot linked to displacement risk.

The City should fund a modest pilot that provides legal representation to tenants facing displacement. There are several strong approaches the City could take in designing this pilot. One option is to prioritize tenants in buildings with serious code enforcement issues or other indicators of high housing instability. Another option is to target the pilot geographically, focusing on census tracts with elevated eviction rates, high concentrations of renter households, and demonstrated displacement risk, consistent with recent analysis of eviction patterns in San José.

A geographically targeted approach would also advance the City’s racial equity goals. Available data shows that eviction filings are disproportionately concentrated in neighborhoods with higher shares of Black and Latino residents, meaning that targeted legal support would help address longstanding disparities in housing stability and reduce disproportionate harm to communities most impacted by displacement.

Another option is to provide legal services packaged with rent assistance to assist those in arrears on rent; this model was tested by the Law Foundation, the City of San José, and Santa Clara County, and found successful during the federal “sequester” cuts in 2013.

Moreover, fully staffing Code Enforcement and improving cost-recovery strategies in the code enforcement context could supplement other one-time revenue sources to fund a pilot.

2. Preserve youth empowerment, violence prevention, and intervention services—including nonprofit programs such as BEST.

Community-based youth and violence prevention programs are essential public safety infrastructure. San José should preserve and strengthen these programs, not reduce them, especially in neighborhoods where young people and families rely on trusted nonprofit providers for stability, mentorship, and support. Although intervention services are critically important, it is also important that early prevention services are also supported.

3. Sustain \$1 million for immigrant protection services and ensure the Mayor fulfills his pledge to raise an additional \$500,000 from philanthropy.

Know-Your-Rights education, legal services, and Rapid Response Network support are essential to the safety and stability of immigrant families at this moment. These services should be fully funded and expanded through the promised philanthropic match.

4. Fully fund the Child and Youth Services Master Plan demonstration sites through FY27 by maintaining the \$1 million funding for the Santee and Mayfair/Poco Way pilot projects.

If San José is serious about advancing child and youth well-being, it must ensure that the demonstration sites move forward with full funding. These sites represent an important opportunity to invest in upstream family support and neighborhood stability. Both sites are on their way to create a cradle to career support system for children, youth, and their families; defunding the projects will destabilize current nonprofit investments, disrupt community engagement with youth and families, and jeopardize potential national partnerships.

5. Continue to supplement community-based TRUST services as the County faces another shortfall.

Community-based crisis response works. TRUST connects residents experiencing behavioral health crises to appropriate care without relying solely on police or emergency room response. TRUST was developed in response to community demands – particularly from the Black community and youth leaders in the wake of the murder of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement – as part of a

community-driven effort to reimagine public safety in San José. The City previously provided a modest contribution to support this model in partnership with the County; we urge the City to continue and strengthen that commitment, particularly as County resources tighten. Rolling back or underfunding TRUST would undermine the City's commitments to that community-led process and erode the goal of building safer, more equitable responses to crises.

6. Do not cut older adult services again this year.

Older adult nutrition, legal assistance, wellness, and isolation-prevention services are critical to helping older adults remain healthy, housed, and connected. Cutting these services again would deepen instability for older adults, particularly those with disabilities who are uniquely vulnerable to displacement and hardship.

Critical Considerations

Broadly, we urge the Council to make budget choices that reflect the values of equity, prevention, and community stability. San José should not balance its budget on the backs of immigrant families, young people, older adults, tenants at risk of displacement, or residents experiencing crisis. The City must protect the programs that keep people housed, connected, and safe.

Consistent with these values, we strongly oppose proposals to charge fees to unhoused residents living in interim shelters. Requiring extremely low-income residents to pay for shelter is inconsistent with the goal of stabilization and risks making it harder for people to save money, regain footing, and transition into permanent housing.

We appreciate that the Mayor's March Budget Message appeared to continue the Measure E set-aside for homelessness prevention assistance that helps households at risk of eviction or homelessness remain housed. That prevention funding is important and should be protected.

The City should explore additional revenue strategies and the strategic use of one-time funds and reserves to avoid reductions in services that serve the most vulnerable residents of our community that would be caused by avoidable and

harmful layoffs and cuts to nonprofit services. The City can and should position itself to best serve the entire community by prioritizing stability and protecting essential services.

Broad Community Alignment

Over the past several months, a broad set of community organizations and coalitions have put forward thoughtful, community-informed proposals related to the City’s budget and affordability priorities. These include, but are not limited to, the REAL Coalition’s STAY in San José framework, proposals from the organizations of the Sí Se Puede Collective, the Immigrant Protection and Empowerment Network (IPEN), Working Partnerships USA and the broader Labor community, SIREN, SV@Home and the housing advocacy community, the Save Our Seniors “SOS” Coalition, and Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ San José). While these efforts reflect different areas of focus, they consistently point in the same direction: San José must prioritize affordability, prevent displacement, and invest in community stability.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration. We look forward to continuing to work together toward a San José where all residents can stay, belong, and thrive.

Sincerely,

Sarita Kohli
AACI

Deryk Clark
Advent Group Ministries

Milan Balinton
African American Community Service Agency

Almaz Negash
African Diaspora Network

Sheri Burns
Aging Services Collaborative of Santa Clara County

Jeremy Barousse
Amigos de Guadalupe Center for Justice and Empowerment

Richard Konda
Asian Law Alliance

Mary Cheryl B. Gloner
Asian Women Empowered

Loren Gissible
Gardner Health Services

Elisa Koff-Ginsborg
**Behavioral Health Community
Association (BHCA)**

Veronica Goei
Grail Family Services

Josh Selo
Bill Wilson Center

Chuck Cantrell
Havensafe

Jahmal Williams
Black Leadership Kitchen Cabinet

Wesley Saver
HealthRIGHT 360

Alex Shoor
Catalyze SV

Gail Anne Osmer
Hands 4Helping

Don Taylor
**Catholic Charities of Santa Clara
County**

Ron Gonzales
Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley

Lauren Salciccia
Child Advocates of Silicon Valley

Aila Malik
Hope Services

Gini Bossenbroek
Connection is Key

Teresa Gomez
**Indian Health Center of Santa Clara
Valley**

Lori Ramos Chavez
ConXion to Community

Susan Frazer
**Jewish Family Services of Silicon
Valley**

André Chapman
Fostering Promise

Rose Mukhar
Justice at Last

Nicole Arriaga
Fresh Lifelines for Youth

Joy Murrieta
Kids in Common

Eunice Chun
**Korean American Community
Services**

Gabby Chavez-Lopez
Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley

Darcie Green
Latinas Contra Cancer

Brittany Alvarez
**Latino Education Advancement
Foundation (LEAF)**

Cynthia Chagolla
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley

Angelica Cortez
LEAD Filipino

Anjee-Helstrup-Alvarez
**MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y
Cultura Latino Americana**

Usha Srinivasan
Mosaic America

Colsaria Henderson
**Next Door Solutions to Domestic
Violence**

Eva Terrazas
Pacific Clinics

Dontae Lartigue
Razing the Bar

Poncho Guevara
Sacred Heart Community Service

Mary Helen Doherty
**Sacred Heart Housing Action
Committee**

Dorsey Moore
San Jose Conservation Corps

Wisa Uemura
San Jose Taiko

Louis Powell
Santa Maria Urban Ministry

Leslie Bacho
Second Harvest of Silicon Valley

Kimberly Woo
**Services, Immigrant Rights and
Education Network (SIREN)**

Kyra Kazantzis
Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits

Sheri Burns
**Silicon Valley Independent Living
Center**

Michael Dao
SJSU Human Rights Institute

Sandy Perry
South Bay Community Land Trust

Vicky Martin
South County Community Services

Shawn Gerth
Veggielution

Regina Celestin Williams
SV@Home

Philip Nguyen
Vietnamese American Roundtable

Carlos Rosario
**The Santa Clara County Black
Lawyers Association**

Cassandra Magana
West Valley Community Services

Vicki Harrison
**Santa Clara County Showing Up for
Racial Justice**

Jen Masuda
**Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community
Senior Center**

Yvonne Maxwell
Ujima Adult and Family Services

Adriana Caldera Boroffice
YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley

About the REAL Coalition

The Race Equity Action Leadership (REAL) Coalition is an alliance of more than 50 nonprofit organizational members, along with many additional nonprofit partners, community advocates, and grassroots leaders. REAL is committed to dismantling white supremacy culture and systemic racism, using our positional power to advance movement goals, and facilitating the voice of community in government decision-making. We are also committed to learning, advocacy, and organizing while building power in authentic community solidarity.

Fw: DO NOT permit the city staff to spend our tax dollar studying "what other jurisdictions do" to tax homeowners for free child care for low income

From Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Fri 5/1/2026 1:01 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas

City of San José | Office of the City Clerk

200 East Santa Clara St. – Tower 14th Fl.

San José, CA 95113-1905

Phone 408.535.1260 | Fax 408.292.6207

rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov

**Memos, items, and attachments must be submitted to rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov before 12PM on the Thursday before the intended Rules meeting* Holidays may impact this schedule; revised deadlines will be noticed as applicable.*

From: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Sent: Friday, May 1, 2026 1:00 PM

To: Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Fw: DO NOT permit the city staff to spend our tax dollar studying "what other jurisdictions do" to tax homeowners for free child care for low income

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Ruth Callahan [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, May 1, 2026 12:53 PM

To: CAO Main <cao.main@sanjoseca.gov>; Webmaster Manager <webmaster.manager@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: DO NOT permit the city staff to spend our tax dollar studying "what other jurisdictions do" to tax homeowners for free child care for low income

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

The total amount of taxpayer dollars allocated toward the welfare of children and youth in Santa Clara County is **\$1.33 billion** for the 2025–2026 fiscal year. This represents a **2.8% increase** from the previous year, even as the county navigates significant federal funding cuts.

While child care is a major component of this "Children's Budget," it is primarily distributed through several distinct channels rather than a single "free child care" line item.

1. CalWORKs Child Care (The Primary Subsidy)

The largest portion of child care funding for low-income residents comes through the **CalWORKs** program.

- **Total Funding:** The county receives over **\$63 million** specifically for CalWORKs
- **Purpose:** This provides cash assistance and child care services for approximately **6,100 families** to support employment and self-sufficiency goals.
- **Taxpayer Source:** This is a mix of federal and state funds, though the county provides a "net cost" contribution from local property taxes and general funds to maintain these services.

2. The \$1.33 Billion "Children's Budget"

The broader \$1.33 billion allocation covers a wide spectrum of "safety net" programs. For the 2025–26 fiscal year, the funding is broken down by source:

- **Total County Spending:** \$1.33 Billion
- **Net County Cost (Local Taxpayer Dollars):** **\$298.9 million** (a 14.1% increase in local spending compared to the prior year to backfill federal cuts).
- **State & Federal Contribution:** Approximately **\$1.026 billion**.

3. Recent Local Infrastructure Grants

Beyond direct subsidies, the County Board of Supervisors has authorized specific local taxpayer spending to expand the child care market:

- **Childcare Expansion Grants:** In early 2025, the county held press conferences regarding infrastructure grants designed to add physical spaces in local centers (e.g., adding 20 spaces and 5 teachers in Willow Glen).
- **The Federal "Freeze" Impact:** **County officials, including Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, have noted that California is currently facing a \$5 billion freeze in federal Child Care and Development Funds. Santa Clara County is currently attempting to shift local revenue to ensure these programs do not collapse.**

Ruth A Callahan

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: RESPONSE TO DISTRICT 2 COUNCILMEMBER'S DESIRE FOR TAX PAYER FUNDED FREE CHILD CARE FOR LOW INCOME

From Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Mon 5/4/2026 8:24 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas

City of San José | Office of the City Clerk

200 East Santa Clara St. – Tower 14th Fl.

San José, CA 95113-1905

Phone 408.535.1260 | Fax 408.292.6207

rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov

**Memos, items, and attachments must be submitted to rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov before 12PM on the Thursday before the intended Rules meeting* Holidays may impact this schedule; revised deadlines will be noticed as applicable.*

From: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Sent: Monday, May 4, 2026 8:13 AM

To: Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Fw: RESPONSE TO DISTRICT 2 COUNCILMEMBER'S DESIRE FOR TAX PAYER FUNDED FREE CHILD CARE FOR LOW INCOME

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Ruth Callahan [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, May 3, 2026 10:52 AM

To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: RESPONSE TO DISTRICT 2 COUNCILMEMBER'S DESIRE FOR TAX PAYER FUNDED FREE CHILD CARE FOR LOW INCOME

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

Providing funds for childcare is not a "free" economic boost; it is a redistribution of wealth that often destabilizes the private market, invites fiscal fraud, and overlooks the developmental needs of the children themselves. Rather than subsidizing a specific industry, a more effective approach would be to reduce the tax burden on families directly, allowing them the financial freedom to choose the care that best suits their children's unique needs.

The total amount of taxpayer dollars allocated toward the welfare of children and youth in Santa Clara County is **\$1.33 billion** for the 2025–2026 fiscal year. This represents a **2.8% increase** from the previous year, even as the county navigates significant federal funding cuts.

While child care is a major component of this "Children's Budget," it is primarily distributed through several distinct channels rather than a single "free child care" line item.

1. CalWORKs Child Care (The Primary Subsidy)

The largest portion of child care funding for low-income residents comes through the **CalWORKs** program.

- **Total Funding:** The county receives over **\$63 million** specifically for CalWORKs.
- **Purpose:** This provides cash assistance and child care services for approximately **6,100 families** to support employment and self-sufficiency goals.
- **Taxpayer Source:** This is a mix of federal and state funds, though the county provides a "net cost" contribution from local property taxes and general funds to maintain these services.

2. The \$1.33 Billion "Children's Budget"

The broader \$1.33 billion allocation covers a wide spectrum of "safety net" programs. For the 2025–26 fiscal year, the funding is broken down by source:

- **Total County Spending:** \$1.33 Billion
- **Net County Cost (Local Taxpayer Dollars):** **\$298.9 million** (a 14.1% increase in local spending compared to the prior year to backfill federal cuts).
- **State & Federal Contribution:** Approximately **\$1.026 billion**.

3. Recent Local Infrastructure Grants

Beyond direct subsidies, the County Board of Supervisors has authorized specific local taxpayer spending to expand the child care market:

- **Childcare Expansion Grants:** In early 2025, the county held press conferences regarding infrastructure grants designed to add physical spaces in local centers (e.g., adding 20 spaces and 5 teachers in Willow Glen).
- **The Federal "Freeze" Impact:** County officials, including Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, have noted that California is currently facing a **\$5 billion freeze** in federal Child Care and Development Funds. Santa Clara County is currently attempting to shift local revenue to ensure these programs do not collapse.


--

R Callahan

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room Public Access Closure — Library Department Budget Item 4, FY 2026-2027 on May 11, 2026 agenda

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 5/5/2026 7:18 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (16 KB)
Save the California Room.docx;

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Krista Van Laan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2026 11:26 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Bourne, Jill <jill.bourne@sjlibrary.org>
Subject: Re: California Room Public Access Closure — Library Department Budget Item 4, FY 2026-2027 on May 11, 2026 agenda

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Please distribute the attached letter to the city council and Mayor and attach it to the budget hearings scheduled for May 11, 2026

Re: California Room Public Access Closure — Library Department Budget Item 4, FY 2026-2027

Dear Mayor Mahan, Council Members, and City Librarian Bourne,

I am writing to urge you in the strongest possible terms to reject the proposed closure of the California Room at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. As a regular and recent patron of the California Room, I can tell you from firsthand experience that what is being proposed to eliminate is irreplaceable. The proposal's suggestion that

materials will remain available by appointment fundamentally misunderstands what makes the California Room, or any such research room, valuable.

The California Room is not simply a storage facility for historical documents. It is a research environment, staffed by professionals who possess specialized knowledge of San José and Santa Clara Valley history as well as of the materials within the room. During my most recent visit, the staff helped me access maps I did not even know existed that turned out to be critical for my project. As anyone who has worked in an archive or research room knows, one discovery leads naturally to the next. That organic, expert-guided process of discovery cannot be replicated by an appointment system in which a person tries to guess what they want and a staff member unfamiliar with the collection retrieves requested items to a separate room.

The proposed budget action acknowledges that in 2025 alone, there were 5,442 visits to the California Room. That is not the usage pattern of an obscure resource. Many people use the California Room: property owners, historians, authors, students, genealogists, researchers, and more. These needs will not disappear because the room is closed, they will go unmet.

I understand that the California Room staff have already offered constructive alternatives: reduced staffing, reduced hours, or appointment-based access while keeping the room open with knowledgeable personnel on-site. Please take those proposals seriously. A reduced California Room, staffed by people who know the collection and can guide researchers through it, is of more value than a room where materials sit in storage to be picked up by staff who don't understand their contents.

I recently went to the county library in Cupertino and discovered they had gotten rid of their historical material, including some items that were irreplaceable. I was shocked and at the time, thought how glad I was that we in San José understood the importance of our city's very complex history. And now here we are, with something similar happening. While I understand that libraries have many competing interests, it seems to me that a valuable and unique resource like the California Room is something we should treasure and do our best to keep. Please keep the California Room open, staffed, and accessible to the people of San José.

Krista Van Laan



San José CA 95117

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

May 4, 2026

To: Mayor Matt Mahan
Members of the San José City Council
Jill Bourne, City Librarian

Re: California Room Public Access Closure — Library Department Budget Item 4, FY 2026-2027

Dear Mayor Mahan, Council Members, and City Librarian Bourne,

I am writing to urge you in the strongest possible terms to reject the proposed closure of the California Room at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. As a regular and recent patron of the California Room, I can tell you from firsthand experience that what is being proposed to eliminate is irreplaceable. The proposal's suggestion that materials will remain available by appointment fundamentally misunderstands what makes the California Room, or any such research room, valuable.

The California Room is not simply a storage facility for historical documents. It is a research environment, staffed by professionals who possess specialized knowledge of San José and Santa Clara Valley history as well as of the materials within the room. During my most recent visit, the staff helped me access maps I did not even know existed that turned out to be critical for my project. As anyone who has worked in an archive or research room knows, one discovery leads naturally to the next. That organic, expert-guided process of discovery cannot be replicated by an appointment system in which a person tries to guess what they want and a staff member unfamiliar with the collection retrieves requested items to a separate room.

The proposed budget action acknowledges that in 2025 alone, there were 5,442 visits to the California Room. That is not the usage pattern of an obscure resource. Many people use the California Room: property owners, historians, authors, students, genealogists, researchers, and more. These needs will not disappear because the room is closed, they will go unmet.

I understand that the California Room staff have already offered constructive alternatives: reduced staffing, reduced hours, or appointment-based access while keeping the room open with knowledgeable personnel on-site. Please take those proposals seriously. A reduced California Room, staffed by people who know the collection and can guide researchers through it, is of more value than a room where materials sit in storage to be picked up by staff who don't understand their contents.

I recently went to the county library in Cupertino and discovered they had gotten rid of their historical material, including some items that were irreplaceable. I was shocked and at the time, thought how glad I was that we in San José understood the importance of our city's very complex history. And now here we are, with something similar happening. While I understand that libraries have many competing interests, it seems to me that a valuable and unique resource like the California Room is something we should treasure and do our best to keep. Please keep the California Room open, staffed, and accessible to the people of San José.

Krista Van Laan

████████████████████
████████████████████
████████████████████

Fw: California Room Budget cuts

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Wed 5/6/2026 8:30 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Fernando Zazueta <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 9:36 PM
To: Mahan Matt <[REDACTED]>
Cc: District1 <[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]>
District4 <[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]>
District7 <[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]>
District 10 <[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fwd: California Room Budget cuts

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

I can't believe the City is willing to cut the [California Room](#) at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, one our greatest resources for preserving our history. That is something I would expect from Trump, but not you, our beloved City guardians. Please do what needs to be done, cut elsewhere, but not here. Knowledge is a precious thing.

Fernando Zazueta
[REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

From: Darlene Tenes <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room Budget cuts

Date: May 5, 2026 at 10:53:50 AM PDT

To: Araceli Gonzales <[REDACTED]> Darlene Tenes

Hello,

The City of San Jose plans to cut funding for the [California Room](#) at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. Buried deep in the budget on page 618 the Mayor and City Manager are proposing eliminating all California Room staff which would result "in the closure of the California Room to regular public access." Countless historians, developers, educators, students, authors and others have visited the room over the years to gather valuable information, including 5,442 visits in 2025 alone. Everyone who has visited the space knows how crucial it is to have a full-time librarian knowledgeable about the unique collection to guide your research on San Jose and Santa Clara County history.

Beyond research the staff began curating exhibits and educational talks in 2018 telling the many stories from our diverse community including:

- [Eastside Dreams: The Untold Story of East San Jose](#)
- [Pinoytown Rising: Filipinos Americans in Santa Clara County](#)
- [Women on Wheels, California Wind Dancers](#)
- [Hidden Heritages: San José's Vietnamese Legacy](#)
- [Black History Month at the California Room](#)
- [Story & King: San Jose's Lowrider Culture](#)

During these unprecedented times, the Trump administration faces legal action and criticism from historians and conservationists concerned that its policies are intentionally erasing or altering American history on public lands and in federal institutions. We cannot allow the City of San Jose to do the same.

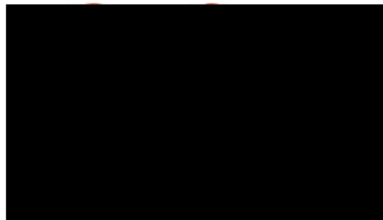
By removing staff and access, our rich and diverse cultural history remains hidden. Dedicated staff is needed, not just someone to open the door by appointment. Please contact the City of San Jose Mayor and City Council to express your concerns before the June 2, 2026 vote.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely

--

Darlene Tenes



Fw: Save the California Room

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Wed 5/6/2026 8:30 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Kay M Gutknecht <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 9:31 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> Bourne, Jill <[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Save the California Room

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

To: Mayor Matt Mahan
Members of the San José City Council
Jill Bourne, City Librarian
Toni J. Taber, City Clerk

Re: California Room Public Access Closure — Library Department Budget Item 4, FY 2026-2027 on May 11, 2026 agenda

Dear Mayor Mahan, Council Members, City Librarian Bourne, and City Clerk Taber,

I was deeply concerned to learn that the proposed 2026–2027 library budget includes closure of the California Room at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. This unique City resource is truly one-of-a-kind and should be among the last services considered for reduction or elimination.

I urge you to reject this proposed closure and instead support options that preserve access to the California Room, including reduced hours or an appointment-based model. Equally important is retaining the current staff, whose specialized knowledge of the collection is indispensable to historians, students, authors, genealogists, and community members who rely on these materials.

On average, nearly 20 people each day use the California Room for research. These visits reflect more than routine reference requests—they represent meaningful engagement with San José’s history. The staff do far more than retrieve materials; they guide users through the collection, helping them discover relevant resources and make connections that would otherwise be missed. The ability to browse, compare, and follow lines of inquiry across multiple sources is essential to this experience and cannot be replicated through a standard reference desk model.

This resource also plays an important role in educating the next generation. I recently inquired about bringing my grandnephew for an introductory visit when he studies California history in the fourth grade. Experiences like this help young people understand how to conduct research and connect with their community’s past. Losing access to the California Room would mean losing these formative opportunities for students across our city.

While the proposal suggests that selected materials would remain accessible through the reference desk, this approach raises serious concerns. Without the expertise of current California Room staff, how will users navigate complex or specialized requests? Whether researching historical maps, local events, or niche topics in San José’s history, the depth and efficiency of support will inevitably be diminished. This change risks undermining the very purpose of maintaining the collection.

The California Room is not interchangeable with neighborhood library branches. It is a specialized, irreplaceable resource that preserves and makes accessible the history of our region. Once diminished, its value cannot easily be restored.

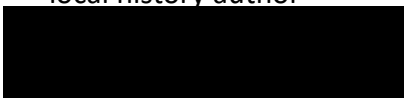
If cost savings are necessary, I respectfully ask you to consider alternatives such as:

- Reduced hours of operation
- Access by appointment
- Retention and reassignment of current California Room staff, even temporarily, to ensure continuity of expertise and a strong foundation for reopening

Preserving the California Room is an investment in our community’s history, education, and identity. I urge you to act to keep this vital resource accessible to the public.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kay Gutknecht
local history author



Fw: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 1:53 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Jose Gonzalez Jr <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 1:38 PM
To: Webmaster Manager <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2
<[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5
<[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8
<[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]>
Cc: PRCLiaison <[REDACTED]>
Subject: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. Learn more <<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>>]

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Mayor Mahan, City Manager Maguire, and Members of the City Council,

I am writing as a user of Arcadia Ballpark to share concerns about the proposed FY2026-27 budget changes that would significantly alter how the facility operates. I am also copying the Parks and Recreation Commission liaison and would appreciate it if this message could be shared with commission members and included in any relevant public correspondence ahead of the budget cycle.

I also ask that the City Clerk include this message in the public comment record for the Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session.

The proposal (Parks Maintenance Redistricting, Citywide Sports Programming, and Lease Management) in the FY27 Proposed Budget would transition Arcadia from what the City itself describes as a "full onsite operations model with dedicated reservation and programming, concessions, and maintenance staff" to a facility where reservations are managed through the Citywide Sports Program field reservation system and maintenance is incorporated into a park maintenance district.

Arcadia serves a wide and diverse community, including youth baseball, senior softball, adult recreational leagues, and competitive fastpitch programs. The proposed changes could affect all of these groups in meaningful ways.

Facility upkeep and on-site presence - Today, Arcadia has staff on site who are accountable for the condition of the fields, the playground, the bathrooms, and the surrounding landscaped areas. Under the proposed model, maintenance would be handled by a park maintenance district responsible for multiple parks across the city. While those teams do important work, a shared district model means Arcadia would be one of many facilities competing for attention rather than having a dedicated team whose primary focus is this facility. Users should expect that response times to issues, including field conditions, restroom maintenance, and equipment problems, may be slower than they are today.

City-managed leagues - The on-site coordination and programming staff who currently run Arcadia's city-managed leagues would be eliminated under this proposal. That includes the adult slow pitch softball league, which currently costs \$900 per team for a season of 10 guaranteed games. Without a city-run option, teams would need to turn to private leagues, where comparable programs currently charge approximately \$1,100 per team for 6 guaranteed games. That is a significant difference in both cost and value, and there is no guarantee a private league would have access to Arcadia's fields under the new reservation model. It is also worth considering that the private league filling this void may not be a reliable long-term alternative. The local adult slow pitch league has changed hands three times in the past decade, a sign that operating a sustainable program in this market is harder than it looks. Players who lose access to the city league may find themselves with an option that is not only more expensive and shorter in duration, but potentially uncertain from season to season.

Reservations and scheduling - Moving to the Citywide Sports Program reservation system means scheduling would be managed centrally, alongside all other parks and fields across San Jose. Users who currently benefit from on-site coordination and direct communication with facility staff may find the process less responsive. Centralized systems, while efficient at scale, can increase the risk of scheduling conflicts and make it harder to resolve issues quickly when they arise.

Field time allocation - With on-site programming staff no longer overseeing Arcadia's calendar, there may be less active management of how field time is distributed across user groups. Today, that oversight helps balance access between youth, senior, recreational, and competitive programs. Without it, field time could shift based on demand and revenue rather than community balance, and groups with less organizational capacity may find it harder to secure consistent access.

Concessions - The proposal notes that current concessions are part of the "full onsite operations model" being eliminated. It is not clear whether concession services would continue under the new model, be offered less frequently, or be discontinued. Users and families who rely on that amenity, particularly during full-day tournaments and youth events, should be aware this is uncertain.

Arcadia is one of the finest publicly operated sports facilities in San Jose. These concerns are not about the staff who would take on responsibilities under the new model. They are about what is structurally possible when a dedicated facility team is replaced by a shared, citywide system.

I respectfully ask the Council, City Manager, and Commission to carefully consider these impacts before this change is approved.

Thank you for your time and public service.

A Concerned Arcadia Supporter
Sent from my iPhone

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 1:54 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Daniel Powell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 1:41 PM
To: Webmaster Manager <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2
<[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5
<[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8
<[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]>
Cc: PRCLiaison <[REDACTED]>
Subject: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Mahan, City Manager Maguire, and Members of the City Council,

I am writing as a user of Arcadia Ballpark to share concerns about the proposed FY2026 27 budget changes that would significantly alter how the facility operates. I am also copying the Parks and Recreation Commission liaison and would appreciate it if this message could be shared with commission members and included in any relevant public correspondence ahead of the budget cycle.

I also ask that the City Clerk include this message in the public comment record for the Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session.

The proposal (Parks Maintenance Redistricting, Citywide Sports Programming, and Lease Management) in the FY27 Proposed Budget would transition Arcadia from what the City itself

describes as a "full onsite operations model with dedicated reservation and programming, concessions, and maintenance staff" to a facility where reservations are managed through the Citywide Sports Program field reservation system and maintenance is incorporated into a park maintenance district.

Arcadia serves a wide and diverse community, including youth baseball, senior softball, adult recreational leagues, and competitive fastpitch programs. The proposed changes could affect all of these groups in meaningful ways.

Facility upkeep and on-site presence - Today, Arcadia has staff on site who are accountable for the condition of the fields, the playground, the bathrooms, and the surrounding landscaped areas. Under the proposed model, maintenance would be handled by a park maintenance district responsible for multiple parks across the city. While those teams do important work, a shared district model means Arcadia would be one of many facilities competing for attention rather than having a dedicated team whose primary focus is this facility. Users should expect that response times to issues, including field conditions, restroom maintenance, and equipment problems, may be slower than they are today.

City-managed leagues - The on-site coordination and programming staff who currently run Arcadia's city-managed leagues would be eliminated under this proposal. That includes the adult slow pitch softball league, which currently costs \$900 per team for a season of 10 guaranteed games. Without a city-run option, teams would need to turn to private leagues, where comparable programs currently charge approximately \$1,100 per team for 6 guaranteed games. That is a significant difference in both cost and value, and there is no guarantee a private league would have access to Arcadia's fields under the new reservation model. It is also worth considering that the private league filling this void may not be a reliable long-term alternative. The local adult slow pitch league has changed hands three times in the past decade, a sign that operating a sustainable program in this market is harder than it looks. Players who lose access to the city league may find themselves with an option that is not only more expensive and shorter in duration, but potentially uncertain from season to season.

Reservations and scheduling - Moving to the Citywide Sports Program reservation system means scheduling would be managed centrally, alongside all other parks and fields across San Jose. Users who currently benefit from on-site coordination and direct communication with facility staff may find the process less responsive. Centralized systems, while efficient at scale, can increase the risk of scheduling conflicts and make it harder to resolve issues quickly when they arise.

Field time allocation - With on-site programming staff no longer overseeing Arcadia's calendar, there may be less active management of how field time is distributed across user groups. Today, that oversight helps balance access between youth, senior, recreational, and competitive programs. Without it, field time could shift based on demand and revenue rather than community balance, and groups with less organizational capacity may find it harder to secure consistent access.

Concessions - The proposal notes that current concessions are part of the "full onsite operations model" being eliminated. It is not clear whether concession services would continue under the new model, be offered less frequently, or be discontinued. Users and families who rely on that amenity, particularly during full-day tournaments and youth events, should be aware this is uncertain.

Arcadia is one of the finest publicly operated sports facilities in San Jose. These concerns are not about the staff who would take on responsibilities under the new model. They are about what is structurally possible when a dedicated facility team is replaced by a shared, citywide system.

Arcadia Ballpark works. The fields are well-maintained, the leagues are affordable and in demand, and the on-site team delivers a level of service that is rare in a city park system. The proposed changes would dismantle that model to achieve savings that amount to a fraction of a percent of the overall parks budget. We ask the Mayor and City Council to reject this proposal and preserve Arcadia's current operating model in its entirety — its staff, its leagues, its concessions, and its on-site management. What exists today took years to build and will not be easily rebuilt once it is gone.

Thank you for your time and public service.

A Concerned Arcadia Supporter

Daniel Powell

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 3:57 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Cristina Gonzalez <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 2:55 PM
To: Webmaster Manager <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2
<[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5
<[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8
<[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]>
Cc: PRCLiaison <[REDACTED]>
Subject: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Mahan, City Manager Maguire, and Members of the City Council,

I am writing as a user of Arcadia Ballpark to share concerns about the proposed FY2026-27 budget changes that would significantly alter how the facility operates. I am also copying the Parks and Recreation Commission liaison and would appreciate it if this message could be shared with commission members and included in any relevant public correspondence ahead of the budget cycle.

I also ask that the City Clerk include this message in the public comment record for the Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session.

The proposal (Parks Maintenance Redistricting, Citywide Sports Programming, and Lease Management) in the FY27 Proposed Budget would transition Arcadia from what the City itself

describes as a "full onsite operations model with dedicated reservation and programming, concessions, and maintenance staff" to a facility where reservations are managed through the Citywide Sports Program field reservation system and maintenance is incorporated into a park maintenance district.

Arcadia serves a wide and diverse community, including youth baseball, senior softball, adult recreational leagues, and competitive fastpitch programs. The proposed changes could affect all of these groups in meaningful ways.

Facility upkeep and on-site presence - Today, Arcadia has staff on site who are accountable for the condition of the fields, the playground, the bathrooms, and the surrounding landscaped areas. Under the proposed model, maintenance would be handled by a park maintenance district responsible for multiple parks across the city. While those teams do important work, a shared district model means Arcadia would be one of many facilities competing for attention rather than having a dedicated team whose primary focus is this facility. Users should expect that response times to issues, including field conditions, restroom maintenance, and equipment problems, may be slower than they are today.

City-managed leagues - The on-site coordination and programming staff who currently run Arcadia's city-managed leagues would be eliminated under this proposal. That includes the adult slow pitch softball league, which currently costs \$900 per team for a season of 10 guaranteed games. Without a city-run option, teams would need to turn to private leagues, where comparable programs currently charge approximately \$1,100 per team for 6 guaranteed games. That is a significant difference in both cost and value, and there is no guarantee a private league would have access to Arcadia's fields under the new reservation model. It is also worth considering that the private league filling this void may not be a reliable long-term alternative. The local adult slow pitch league has changed hands three times in the past decade, a sign that operating a sustainable program in this market is harder than it looks. Players who lose access to the city league may find themselves with an option that is not only more expensive and shorter in duration, but potentially uncertain from season to season.

Reservations and scheduling - Moving to the Citywide Sports Program reservation system means scheduling would be managed centrally, alongside all other parks and fields across San Jose. Users who currently benefit from on-site coordination and direct communication with facility staff may find the process less responsive. Centralized systems, while efficient at scale, can increase the risk of scheduling conflicts and make it harder to resolve issues quickly when they arise.

Field time allocation - With on-site programming staff no longer overseeing Arcadia's calendar, there may be less active management of how field time is distributed across user groups. Today, that oversight helps balance access between youth, senior, recreational, and competitive programs. Without it, field time could shift based on demand and revenue rather than community balance, and groups with less organizational capacity may find it harder to secure consistent access.

Concessions - The proposal notes that current concessions are part of the "full onsite operations model" being eliminated. It is not clear whether concession services would continue under the new model, be offered less frequently, or be discontinued. Users and families who rely on that amenity, particularly during full-day tournaments and youth events, should be aware this is uncertain.

Arcadia is one of the finest publicly operated sports facilities in San Jose. These concerns are not about the staff who would take on responsibilities under the new model. They are about

what is structurally possible when a dedicated facility team is replaced by a shared, citywide system.

Arcadia Ballpark works. The fields are well-maintained, the leagues are affordable and in demand, and the on-site team delivers a level of service that is rare in a city park system. The proposed changes would dismantle that model to achieve savings that amount to a fraction of a percent of the overall parks budget. We ask the Mayor and City Council to reject this proposal and preserve Arcadia's current operating model in its entirety — its staff, its leagues, its concessions, and its on-site management. What exists today took years to build and will not be easily rebuilt once it is gone.

Thank you for your time and public service.

A Concerned Arcadia Supporter

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 3:57 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Roman Magana <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 2:56 PM
To: Webmaster Manager <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2
<[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5
<[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8
<[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]>
Cc: PRCLiaison <[REDACTED]>
Subject: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 3:58 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Mari-Roman Magana <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 2:56 PM
To: Webmaster Manager <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2
<[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5
<[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8
<[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]>
Cc: PRCLiaison <[REDACTED]>
Subject: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 3:58 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Roman Magana <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 2:56 PM
To: Webmaster Manager <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2
<[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5
<[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8
<[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]>
Cc: PRCLiaison <[REDACTED]>
Subject: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 3:58 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: RoMari <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 2:56 PM
To: Webmaster Manager <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2
<[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5
<[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8
<[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]>
Cc: PRCLiaison <[REDACTED]>
Subject: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

From City Clerk <[redacted]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 3:59 PM
To Agendadesk <[redacted]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Roman Magana <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 2:56 PM
To: Webmaster Manager <[redacted]> The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan
<[redacted]> City Clerk <[redacted]> District1 <[redacted]> District2
<[redacted]> District3 <[redacted]> District4 <[redacted]> District5
<[redacted]> District 6 <[redacted]> District7 <[redacted]> District8
<[redacted]> District9 <[redacted]> District 10 <[redacted]>
Cc: PRCLiaison <[redacted]>
Subject: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [redacted] [Learn why this is important](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

From City Clerk <[redacted]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 4:00 PM
To Agendadesk <[redacted]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Clippedandshady <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 2:57 PM
To: Webmaster Manager <[redacted]> The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan
<[redacted]> City Clerk <[redacted]> District1 <[redacted]> District2
<[redacted]> District3 <[redacted]> District4 <[redacted]> District5
<[redacted]> District 6 <[redacted]> District7 <[redacted]> District8
<[redacted]> District9 <[redacted]> District 10 <[redacted]>
Cc: PRCLiaison <[redacted]>
Subject: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [redacted] [Learn why this is important](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 4:00 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Mari Magana <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 2:57 PM
To: Webmaster Manager <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2
<[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5
<[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8
<[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]>
Cc: PRCLiaison <[REDACTED]>
Subject: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 4:01 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Maricela Magana <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 2:57 PM
To: Webmaster Manager <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2
<[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5
<[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8
<[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]>
Cc: PRCLiaison <[REDACTED]>
Subject: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Mahan, City Manager Maguire, and Members of the City Council,

I am writing as a user of Arcadia Ballpark to share concerns about the proposed FY2026-27 budget changes that would significantly alter how the facility operates. I am also copying the Parks and Recreation Commission liaison and would appreciate it if this message could be shared with commission members and included in any relevant public correspondence ahead of the budget cycle.

I also ask that the City Clerk include this message in the public comment record for the Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session.

The proposal (Parks Maintenance Redistricting, Citywide Sports Programming, and Lease Management) in the FY27 Proposed Budget would transition Arcadia from what the City itself

describes as a "full onsite operations model with dedicated reservation and programming, concessions, and maintenance staff" to a facility where reservations are managed through the Citywide Sports Program field reservation system and maintenance is incorporated into a park maintenance district.

Arcadia serves a wide and diverse community, including youth baseball, senior softball, adult recreational leagues, and competitive fastpitch programs. The proposed changes could affect all of these groups in meaningful ways.

Facility upkeep and on-site presence - Today, Arcadia has staff on site who are accountable for the condition of the fields, the playground, the bathrooms, and the surrounding landscaped areas. Under the proposed model, maintenance would be handled by a park maintenance district responsible for multiple parks across the city. While those teams do important work, a shared district model means Arcadia would be one of many facilities competing for attention rather than having a dedicated team whose primary focus is this facility. Users should expect that response times to issues, including field conditions, restroom maintenance, and equipment problems, may be slower than they are today.

City-managed leagues - The on-site coordination and programming staff who currently run Arcadia's city-managed leagues would be eliminated under this proposal. That includes the adult slow pitch softball league, which currently costs \$900 per team for a season of 10 guaranteed games. Without a city-run option, teams would need to turn to private leagues, where comparable programs currently charge approximately \$1,100 per team for 6 guaranteed games. That is a significant difference in both cost and value, and there is no guarantee a private league would have access to Arcadia's fields under the new reservation model. It is also worth considering that the private league filling this void may not be a reliable long-term alternative. The local adult slow pitch league has changed hands three times in the past decade, a sign that operating a sustainable program in this market is harder than it looks. Players who lose access to the city league may find themselves with an option that is not only more expensive and shorter in duration, but potentially uncertain from season to season.

Reservations and scheduling - Moving to the Citywide Sports Program reservation system means scheduling would be managed centrally, alongside all other parks and fields across San Jose. Users who currently benefit from on-site coordination and direct communication with facility staff may find the process less responsive. Centralized systems, while efficient at scale, can increase the risk of scheduling conflicts and make it harder to resolve issues quickly when they arise.

Field time allocation - With on-site programming staff no longer overseeing Arcadia's calendar, there may be less active management of how field time is distributed across user groups. Today, that oversight helps balance access between youth, senior, recreational, and competitive programs. Without it, field time could shift based on demand and revenue rather than community balance, and groups with less organizational capacity may find it harder to secure consistent access.

Concessions - The proposal notes that current concessions are part of the "full onsite operations model" being eliminated. It is not clear whether concession services would continue under the new model, be offered less frequently, or be discontinued. Users and families who rely on that amenity, particularly during full-day tournaments and youth events, should be aware this is uncertain.

Arcadia is one of the finest publicly operated sports facilities in San Jose. These concerns are not about the staff who would take on responsibilities under the new model. They are about what is structurally possible when a dedicated facility team is replaced by a shared, citywide system.

Arcadia Ballpark works. The fields are well-maintained, the leagues are affordable and in demand, and the on-site team delivers a level of service that is rare in a city park system. The proposed changes would dismantle that model to achieve savings that amount to a fraction of a percent of the overall parks budget. We ask the Mayor and City Council to reject this proposal and preserve Arcadia's current operating model in its entirety — its staff, its leagues, its concessions, and its on-site management. What exists today took years to build and will not be easily rebuilt once it is gone.

Thank you for your time and public service.

A Concerned Arcadia Supporter

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 4:01 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Erica Arenas <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 3:03 PM
To: Webmaster Manager <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2
<[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5
<[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8
<[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]>
Cc: PRCLiaison <[REDACTED]>
Subject: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Mahan, City Manager Maguire, and Members of the City Council,

I am writing as a user of Arcadia Ballpark to share concerns about the proposed FY2026-27 budget changes that would significantly alter how the facility operates. I am also copying the Parks and Recreation Commission liaison and would appreciate it if this message could be shared with commission members and included in any relevant public correspondence ahead of the budget cycle.

I also ask that the City Clerk include this message in the public comment record for the Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session.

The proposal (Parks Maintenance Redistricting, Citywide Sports Programming, and Lease Management) in the FY27 Proposed Budget would transition Arcadia from what the City itself

describes as a "full onsite operations model with dedicated reservation and programming, concessions, and maintenance staff" to a facility where reservations are managed through the Citywide Sports Program field reservation system and maintenance is incorporated into a park maintenance district.

Arcadia serves a wide and diverse community, including youth baseball, senior softball, adult recreational leagues, and competitive fastpitch programs. The proposed changes could affect all of these groups in meaningful ways.

Facility upkeep and on-site presence - Today, Arcadia has staff on site who are accountable for the condition of the fields, the playground, the bathrooms, and the surrounding landscaped areas. Under the proposed model, maintenance would be handled by a park maintenance district responsible for multiple parks across the city. While those teams do important work, a shared district model means Arcadia would be one of many facilities competing for attention rather than having a dedicated team whose primary focus is this facility. Users should expect that response times to issues, including field conditions, restroom maintenance, and equipment problems, may be slower than they are today.

City-managed leagues - The on-site coordination and programming staff who currently run Arcadia's city-managed leagues would be eliminated under this proposal. That includes the adult slow pitch softball league, which currently costs \$900 per team for a season of 10 guaranteed games. Without a city-run option, teams would need to turn to private leagues, where comparable programs currently charge approximately \$1,100 per team for 6 guaranteed games. That is a significant difference in both cost and value, and there is no guarantee a private league would have access to Arcadia's fields under the new reservation model. It is also worth considering that the private league filling this void may not be a reliable long-term alternative. The local adult slow pitch league has changed hands three times in the past decade, a sign that operating a sustainable program in this market is harder than it looks. Players who lose access to the city league may find themselves with an option that is not only more expensive and shorter in duration, but potentially uncertain from season to season.

Reservations and scheduling - Moving to the Citywide Sports Program reservation system means scheduling would be managed centrally, alongside all other parks and fields across San Jose. Users who currently benefit from on-site coordination and direct communication with facility staff may find the process less responsive. Centralized systems, while efficient at scale, can increase the risk of scheduling conflicts and make it harder to resolve issues quickly when they arise.

Field time allocation - With on-site programming staff no longer overseeing Arcadia's calendar, there may be less active management of how field time is distributed across user groups. Today, that oversight helps balance access between youth, senior, recreational, and competitive programs. Without it, field time could shift based on demand and revenue rather than community balance, and groups with less organizational capacity may find it harder to secure consistent access.

Concessions - The proposal notes that current concessions are part of the "full onsite operations model" being eliminated. It is not clear whether concession services would continue under the new model, be offered less frequently, or be discontinued. Users and families who rely on that amenity, particularly during full-day tournaments and youth events, should be aware this is uncertain.

Arcadia is one of the finest publicly operated sports facilities in San Jose. These concerns are not about the staff who would take on responsibilities under the new model. They are about what is structurally possible when a dedicated facility team is replaced by a shared, citywide system.

Arcadia Ballpark works. The fields are well-maintained, the leagues are affordable and in demand, and the on-site team delivers a level of service that is rare in a city park system. The proposed changes would dismantle that model to achieve savings that amount to a fraction of a percent of the overall parks budget. We ask the Mayor and City Council to reject this proposal and preserve Arcadia's current operating model in its entirety — its staff, its leagues, its concessions, and its on-site management. What exists today took years to build and will not be easily rebuilt once it is gone.

Thank you for your time and public service.

A Concerned Arcadia Supporter,
Erica Arenas

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: May 11 Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 4:02 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Kathleen Nguyen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 3:28 PM
To: Webmaster Manager <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2
<[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5
<[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8
<[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]>
Cc: PRCLiaison <[REDACTED]>
Subject: May 11 Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Mahan, City Manager Maguire, and Members of the City Council,

I'm writing to urge you to reject the proposed FY2026-27 budget changes regarding Parks Maintenance Redistricting, Citywide Sports Programming, and Lease Management impacting Arcadia Ballpark.

Please include this message in the public record for the Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session and that it be shared with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The proposed transition from a full onsite operations model to a centralized, shared-district system threatens the quality and accessibility of one of San Jose's finest facilities.

I was heartened when Arcadia Ballpark was introduced to our community. I enjoyed going for walks around this space as a nearby resident, and was later encouraged to join the adult softball league team to meet and make new friends.

As a lifelong community member, my concerns include:

- Maintenance: Moving to a shared maintenance district will likely decrease responsiveness and field quality compared to the current dedicated onsite team.
- City-Managed Leagues: Eliminating onsite programming would end the affordable adult softball league (\$900/10 games), forcing players into private alternatives that are significantly more expensive (\$1,100/6 games) and historically less stable.
- Scheduling and Allocation: Centralized reservations reduce the responsiveness of onsite coordination and risk prioritizing revenue over the balanced field access currently enjoyed by youth, senior, and recreational groups.
- Concessions: The proposal leaves the future of onsite concessions—a vital amenity for families and tournaments—uncertain.

Arcadia's current model is effective and delivers rare service value for a fraction of the parks budget. I ask that you preserve its existing staff, leagues, and management structure.

Thanks,
Kathleen

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: The Closing of the California Room

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 3:03 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Suzanne Morrone <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 3:41 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> Anthony Tordillos <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]>

Subject: The Closing of the California Room

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. Learn more <<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>>]

I'm extremely opposed to closing the California Room to the public. I understand the need for cost cutting but this is a valuable resource for every resident in the city who lives in an older home. I'm sure a creative way to keep the doors open could be found. I implore you to NOT close this incredibly valuable resource.

Thank you,
Suzanne Morrone
living in a house built before 1880, on [REDACTED]

Fw: Our California Room - Library Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 3:53 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Anne Hansen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 2:06 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]> <[REDACTED]> Anne Hansen
<[REDACTED]>

Subject: Our California Room - Library Budget

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

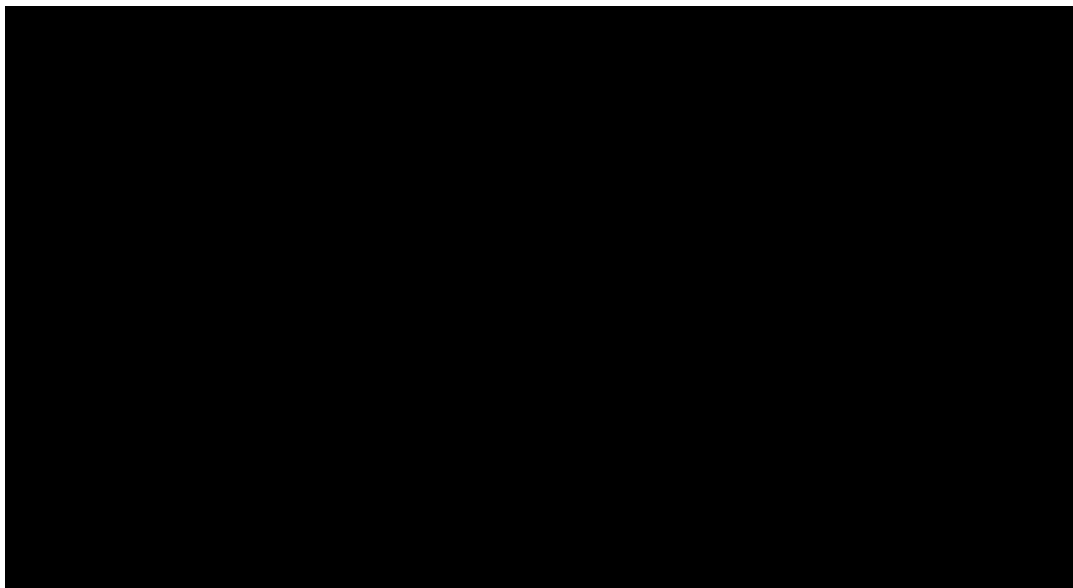
As a third-generation San Josean, I highly urge you to maintain funding for the California Room at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in the 2026–27 budget. For more than a **century**, the California Room and its dedicated librarians have preserved the history of San José and the Santa Clara Valley through an irreplaceable collection of books, photographs, maps, archives, and historical records, which are 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**.

Thank you for your great work in leading our City, you make me a **proud citizen** of San Jose!

Anne Hansen, Realtor



This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: Please maintain funding for the California Room!

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 3:54 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Katie Lage <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 2:15 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: Please maintain funding for the California Room!

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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.

-Katie

Fw: Save California Room

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 3:55 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Barbara Goldstein <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 2:17 PM
To: Maguire, Jennifer <[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> Bourne, Jill <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: Save California Room

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

I am absolutely appalled that the Mayor's budget is contemplating eliminating staffing for the California Room at the MLK Jr. Library. This resource is unbelievably important to scholars and the members of the public who may be interested in learning about or researching San Jose's history, maps, photos, and its special collections of Beethoven and Steinbeck material. San Jose has often been described as a cultural backwater and the very fact that the City is considering cutting funding to the California Room is additional proof that our leadership has no regard for our culture or history.

Instead of throwing money at the Sharks how about supporting local scholarship and history. '

Shame on Mayor Mahan and shame on anyone in City Council or the Budget Office that seriously considers cutting funds for the California Room.

Barbara Goldstein
[REDACTED]

Fw: California Room--Library department budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 3:55 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Elizabeth Kile-Herchkorn <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 2:24 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]> <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room--Library department budget

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom it may concern:

As a local author currently at work on my second book, I have found the California Room at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. main library an invaluable resource as I write about the history and legends of San Jose. I have confirmed information from primary sources, been guided by knowledgeable and helpful librarians, and explored paths that I only discovered through in-person investigation. None of this would have been possible without open access to the important materials and humans in this department.

I urge you to maintain funding for the California Room in the 2026–27 budget. With its dedicated librarians, print resources, and walk-in access, the California Room serves not only writers like me, but students, educators, researchers, and community members. Closing or reducing access to this public resource that has existed for over a century, just to save just 0.6% of the overall City Library budget (read that again--a fraction of one percent), would be a devastating and short-sighted decision, especially as San Jose 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, civic memory, and ongoing education.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Kile
District 9

--

Elizabeth Kile



This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 3:55 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Sarah Groman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 2:25 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]> <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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,
Sarah Groman-Gutierrez
District 2

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 3:55 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Rae Thompson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 2:31 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]> Maguire, Jennifer
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> Bourne, Jill <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

To Whom It May Concern,

As a concerned lifelong Santa Clara County resident, I respectfully urge you to keep funding for the California Room at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in the 2026–27 budget. For over a century, the California Room and its committed librarians have safeguarded the stories of San José and the Santa Clara Valley—books, photographs, maps, archives, and records that thousands of students, teachers, researchers, and neighbors rely on each year. Eliminating this public resource to save just 0.6% of the City Library budget would be a heartbreaking and short-sighted cut, especially with our city's 250th anniversary approaching in 2027. Please protect the California Room, preserve public access to our shared history, and show that San José honors its cultural heritage and civic memory.

Sincerely,

M. Rae Thompson

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room — Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 3:56 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Laurel Eby <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 2:33 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]> Maguire, Jennifer
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> Bourne, Jill <[REDACTED]>
District9 <[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room — Library Department Budget

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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,
Laurel Eby

Fw: California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

Date Thu 5/7/2026 3:56 PM

To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Monica Richards <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 2:35 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]> Maguire, Jennifer

<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> Bourne, Jill <[REDACTED]>

District3 <[REDACTED]>

Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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,

Monica Richards
San Jose Council District 3

Monica Richards [REDACTED]

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room at King Library

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 3:56 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Laurel Eby <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 2:45 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]> Maguire, Jennifer
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> Bourne, Jill <[REDACTED]>
District9 <[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room at King Library

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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,
Laurel Eby
District 9

Fw: California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 3:56 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Vivian Kramp <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 2:49 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]> <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

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 to 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 (and a minuscule 0.007% of the total city 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,
Vivian Kramp
[REDACTED]

San Jose CA 95121
District 8

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room Library Funding

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 4:01 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Nate Bailey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 3:00 PM
To: District 10 <[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]> City Clerk
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room Library Funding

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello, 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. In 2024, I volunteered in the California Room and helped citizens digitize their personal historical collections. The History Department at San Jose State University is also trying to collaborate with California Room management to provide a mutually beneficial program for History students. If you cut funding then the students will suffer from a lack of opportunity in our great city. The citizens will also not have the opportunity to

digitize, conduct research, and study historical maps of the City. Please ensure that this archive receives funding.

Sincerely,

Nathan Bailey, District 10.

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 4:02 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Ed Von Runnen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 3:11 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED] City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Maguire, Jennifer <[REDACTED]> Bourne, Jill <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]


You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Mayor Mahan and Councilmember Casey,

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. 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 and only 0.007% of the total City 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,

Ed Von Runnen - D10


cc: City Manager Maguire
City Librarian Bourne

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room - SJPL Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 4:03 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Jessica Mark <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 3:36 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]> <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room - SJPL Budget

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

I am one of many who rely on the resources and staff of the California Room who do not live in San Jose. I am from San Francisco and we could not imagine our city losing the SFPL Local History Center at the main library.

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,
Jessica Mark, San Francisco

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 4:04 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Caitlin Hibma <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 3:51 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

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a historical and cultural resources consultant based in Richmond, CA. However, I work to assess, document, and preserve historic and cultural sites throughout the Bay Area. I am deeply concerned with the preservation and availability of archival materials in libraries and repositories in every municipality where I work. Therefore, I am writing to ask you to maintain funding for the California Room at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in the 2026–27 budget.

The California Room contains a unique collection of books, photographs, maps, and historical records that are critical to my work, just as they are to students, educators, researchers, and other members of our communities wanting to learn about the past. Closing such an invaluable public resource would amount to a minimal savings within the overall City Library budget, but a massive loss to San Jose and all those concerned with its history.

Again, I ask you to please maintain funding and operation of the California Room.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Hibma

Fw: Keep the California Room Open

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 4:05 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Katherine Petrin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 4:04 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]>
Cc: 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]>
Connor Turnbull <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Keep the California Room Open

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Esteemed City Officials,

It would be wise to maintain funding for the California Room at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in the 2026–27 budget.

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.

As an architectural historian, I ask you to protect the California Room, preserve public access for historians, both local and those of us outside of San Jose, who appreciate this important resource.

Sincerely,
Katherine Petrin, Historian
San Francisco, CA

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room - San Jose Public Library Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 4:50 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Bridget Maley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 4:21 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 - San Jose Public Library Budget

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

I use the resources of the California Room to research historic places in San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley. It is a true community gem. There is nothing more important than preserving our history and our historical records.

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

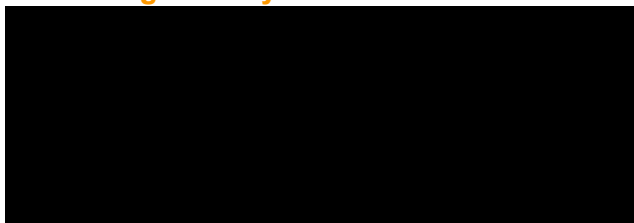
would be a devastating and short-sighted decision, especially as San José prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary in 2027. I ask you to protect the California Room, preserve public access to our shared history, and demonstrate that San José values its cultural heritage and civic memory.

Sincerely,

Bridget Maley, Architectural Historian

--

bridget maley



This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room - Library Dept Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

Date Thu 5/7/2026 4:51 PM

To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: M M Alexander <qvoleff@att.net>

Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 4:25 PM

To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

Subject: California Room - Library Dept Budget

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

City Clerk:

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,

Maureen M. Alexander



San Jose 95125

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 4:52 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Connor Turnbull <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 4:40 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

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Esteemed city officials,
I am an architectural historian and 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.

A City and County that says that it values its history, its people and the distinct character of its identity does not eliminate access to the records that PROVE its individuality, specific character and reason for pride of place. This world of research does not live in the digital realm, it is found in places like the California Room.

Sincerely,
Connor I. Turnbull

--

Connor Ishiguro Turnbull



This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: San Jose Budget - California Room

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 5/7/2026 4:52 PM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Tiffany Torma <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 4:44 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]> <[REDACTED]>
Subject: San Jose Budget - California Room

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I have recently learned of the city's proposal to cut funding for the California Room and its special librarians. Given how little the city has to invest (0.6% of the budget!!) to maintain a massive generator of cultural capital like a local history repository, this is a nonsensical and frankly Trump like decision.

Preserving a free flowing fountain of knowledge for its citizens is part of how a democratic society prevents itself from falling under the control of the uneducated or manipulative. Librarians in particular are beacons of literacy and preservation in a political environment rife with misinformation and destruction.

Please, I urge you to maintain this 100+ year old gem of San Jose's public structure.

California's pride is in its ability to face its history--good and bad--and turn those truths into social good for its residents. I see no reason why our great city should begin to shutter this pride and step, alongside our languishing federal government, deeper into the darkness, all for the false comfort of a half-percent more balanced budget.

Our voices are history's breath; the moment we stop speaking it, repeating it, protecting it, is the moment she begins to choke and fade.

Please, rethink this decision. The California Room is more than worth its funding.

Thank you,
Tiffany Torma, Council District 3

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

Date Fri 5/8/2026 8:39 AM

To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Alison Collins <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 5:05 PM

Subject: Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Civic Leader,

First, thank you for your service to our community.

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.

Thank you for care and stewardship of San José,

Alison Collins
District 3

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 8:39 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Sandra Ketchum <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 5:13 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

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor & Councilmembers:

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,
Sandra Ketchum

East Foothills

May the night sky find us all warm, fed, sheltered and loved...

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: Don't close the California Room! Library Dept budget issue

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 8:39 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Mike Sanchez <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 5:13 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]> <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Don't close the California Room! Library Dept budget issue

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

As a member of the Board of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County and a lifetime resident, I urge you to maintain funding for the California Room at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in the 2026–27 budget. The collection is irreplaceable. 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,
Mike Sanchez, Cupertino CA

Fw: Save the California Room at MLK Library!

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 8:39 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Jim Van Buskirk <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 5:18 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]> Maguire, Jennifer
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> Bourne, Jill <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Save the California Room at MLK Library!

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

As a retired public librarian (at San Francisco Public Library -- Hi Jill!), I urge you to maintain funding for the California Room at the MLK 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 seriously explore other options so that you can protect the California Room, preserve public access to our shared history, and demonstrate that San José values its cultural heritage and civic memory.

Sincerely,
Jim Van Buskirk, San Francisco

Fw: Save the California Room!

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

Date Fri 5/8/2026 8:39 AM

To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Mara Zlotoff <zlotoff@[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 5:18 PM

To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Save the California Room!

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

We are longtime residents of San Jose. The California Room is a treasure that must be kept!

Stan and Mara Zlotoff

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 8:39 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Bob R Kenyon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 5:19 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

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. Learn more <<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>>]

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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.

I personally did a lot of research there on my own house located in historic Naglee Park and learned a lot about the neighborhood and found the resources fascinating and useful.

Sincerely,
Bob Kenyon
D3 resident

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: 2026–27 budget - California Room at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 8:40 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Mark Venegas <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 5:39 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: 2026–27 budget - California Room at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello-

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,
Mark Venegas
District 2

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 8:40 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Lee Panich <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 5:39 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]> <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

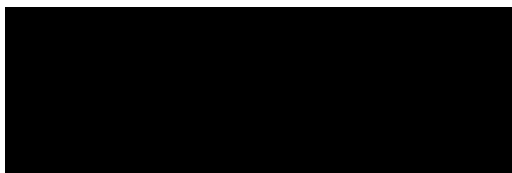
Dear Mayor Mahan, Councilmembers, and other city leaders,

As a San Jose resident and Professor of Anthropology at Santa Clara University, 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,
Lee M. Panich



This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 8:40 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 6:04 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: Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello all

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,

Bernie Z

Long time San Jose resident and graduate of SJSU

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room Library Dept. Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 8:40 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Andy Shanken <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 6:15 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]> <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room Library Dept. Budget

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

To All Concerned,

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.

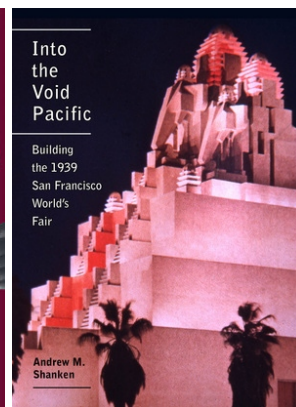
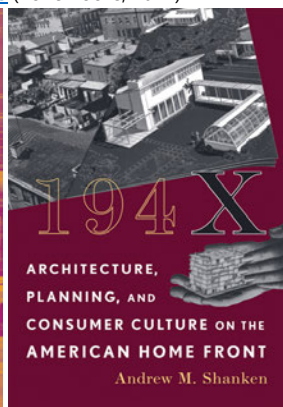
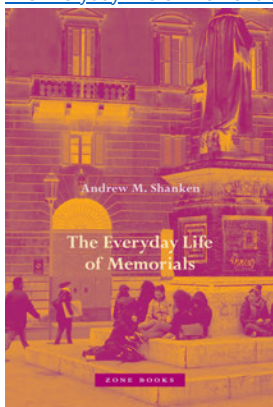
As a historian who has written about California topics, I believe that this is an invaluable resource.

Sincerely,

Andy Shanken

Andy Shanken

[The Everyday Life of Memorials](#) (Zone Books, 2022)



This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:06 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Vicky <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 6:16 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]> District9
<[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District 6
<[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District3
<[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> Bourne, Jill
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan
<[REDACTED]> Maguire, Jennifer <[REDACTED]>

Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

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,

Vicky Gardner
San Jose, District 6

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: MLK Library's California Room

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:07 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 8:07 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: MLK Library's California Room

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

I implore you to keep the California Room at the Martin Luther King Library open and available to the public.

I found it when I was organizing our neighborhood's Centennial celebration and have spent many hours there researching our area. The staff is outstanding and was very helpful and encouraging. I was able to uncover long lost information which was a real treasure and helped us understand how San Jose and our community developed. This enriched our Centennial celebration making it much more interesting which increased the appreciation of our neighbors for their homes, neighborhood and San Jose. This could not have happened without the California Room. In fact, we continue to use this resource to expand our knowledge for our neighborhood and city. I also know of other local historians from nearby cities who have used the resources of the California Room. Knowing the history of San Jose increases our respect and esteem for this exciting city.

This California Room is vital to the continued appreciation of our wonderful city and the Valley of the Hearts Delight.

Respectfully,

Jo Hogin
President

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: Save the California Room

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:07 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Mark Silver <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 8:42 PM
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Save the California Room

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

I am submitting the following in response to the City's proposal to remove public access to the California Room.

Mayor Mahan and members of the City Council,

I write today to urge you to reconsider the decision to eliminate public access to the California Room Local History Collection at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

A little more than four years ago, we made the decision to expand our 90 year old JK-8 into a JK-12 and to open our Upper School campus in downtown San Jose. As some of you know, our JK-8 has been located in Los Gatos on a bucolic 14 acre campus since 1935, a magical place for children to grow and learn. And yet when making a decision to expand we knew that our Upper School program needed to be in the heart of a dynamic urban space, a location where students could actively engage in the world around them. Choosing San Jose has been the best decision we could have made. Over these first three years our students and faculty have immersed ourselves in the city, connecting with everybody from the Mayor's Office, city council members, and the police department to a wide range of non-profit

organizations and businesses. Our students have had internships, completed service projects, and fully integrated ourselves into our surroundings. I am continually grateful to the San Jose community, including the Mayor, District 3 Council Member Anthony Tordillos, District 6 Council Member Michael Mulcahy, and many others on the Council, for the warm welcome you have provided us.

One of our strongest partners has been the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library and, in particular, the California Room. I remember the first time I walked into that space with members of the school's leadership team. We were there to explore some of the maps and historical directories easily accessible in the California Room - to learn more about the school's two historical buildings - the Armory Building and the Moir Building - that we have renovated and brought back to life as the main buildings for our Upper School program. I remember the joy that it brought me to learn that the Moir Building had been the home to a vulcanized tire company and a drycleaners in the early 1900s, and that later in the 1960s it had been the site of the United Farm Workers. The library staff eagerly connected with us and showed us around, guiding us toward materials and collections that we would never have known about without their assistance. Our time in the California Room helped me to gain a deeper sense of place, to better understand the history of the buildings we inhabit and to see how our story connected to the larger history of San Jose.

Later, I taught a class on the First Amendment to a group of 10th graders. We reached out to the California Room to ask for their support in creating a lesson on the Victory Salute Statue and to see if they could offer some primary source materials tied to that important piece of SJSU and American history. They responded with an enthusiastic yes, and a few weeks later the students and my colleagues were treated to a 90-minute presentation replete with an extraordinary range of primary source materials, a first-hand opportunity to learn about this truly transformative moment in our nation's history and to develop a deeper appreciation for the role that individuals and communities play in changing the world. We not only gained a powerful lesson in how our understanding of history evolves over time and is powerfully shaped by the broader climate and context, but saw firsthand the important role that libraries and historians play in ensuring our history is preserved and available for future generations to review and analyze.

Other colleagues of mine have also had the opportunity to engage with the California Room and to open up unique, hands-on learning experiences for our students, including one teacher who has been actively using the room and its talented staff to introduce our students to archival research. In just three years in downtown San Jose, it has become one of our favorite resources for our students, and a powerful example of why it makes sense for our school to be located in the heart of San Jose. The California Room makes the idea of the "city as classroom" come alive.

We are, of course, just one of the many schools, organizations, and individuals who see the California Room as a vital San Jose resource. Sal Pizarro wrote a compelling argument in a recent issue of the *Mercury News* making a compelling case for why it is important to keep this local resource and treasure accessible to the community. I particularly appreciated his final line, "But the problem with closing a resource like the California Room is that it becomes that much harder to reopen it in the future. If it's closed, people are less likely to use what services are still available. And if people aren't using those,

future budget crunchers may wonder if it's necessary. Or, worse, they may forget about it entirely. And then the California Room really does become like that warehouse in "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

What a loss to the young people of our City it would be to lose access to this rare resource, and what a loss to the community it would be to not prioritize this vital community treasure.

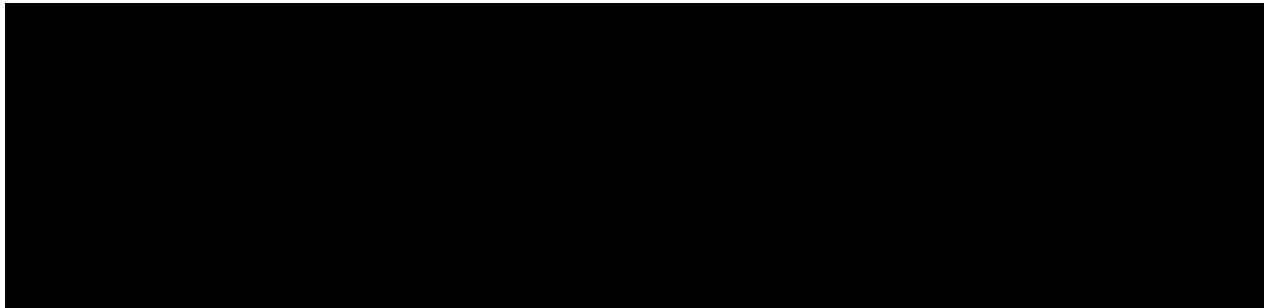
I appreciate the Council's consideration, and hope that the City is able to find other ways to manage the budget that do not impact the California Room.

With appreciation,

Mark Silver

Head of School

Hillbrook School



BE KIND. BE CURIOUS. TAKE RISKS. BE YOUR BEST.



This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California room

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:07 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Janet Darrow <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 8:45 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

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Please do not cut the funding for the wonderful California Room at MLK Library. It is a vital resource for researchers, educators as well as all of us interested in the history of our area. For 100 years it has been a well used resource. The cost to keep it open is very small compared to the SJ budget. Please find a way to keep this open, especially for our 150th birthday in 2027.
Sincerely,
Janet Darrow
95136

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:07 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Lisa Ruder <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 10:02 PM
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Toni,

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,
Lisa Ruder,

Resident, District 6

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: Subject: Proposed Closure of the California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:08 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Mike Sodergren <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 11:24 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]>
Cc: Mike Sodergren <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Subject: Proposed Closure of the California Room - Library Department Budget

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

Dear Honorable Mayor, City Council Members, City Manager, City Librarian and other Staff,

No one can deny the need for belt tightening and sacrifice to address the City's projected 2026-2027 budget deficit. The question is this. How do we make cuts in areas where the fiscal magnitude of the impact is greatest, while minimizing the negative impact of where the cuts are made in the short and long term. I am writing to you specifically to express my concern with the proposed closure of the Martin Luther King Library's California Room and the elimination of the staff positions dedicated to this incredible asset of our great City.

Established in 1906 as the local history section of San Jose's first public library, the California Room today has grown to become an irreplaceable collection of books, photographs, maps, newspaper archives, city directories, building permits, personal papers, and historic ephemera illuminating more than 250 years of San José, Santa Clara Valley, and California history. Given its 5,400 annual in-person visits and countless additional online inquiries, the California Room is an incredibly important public resource supporting the efforts of students, educators, authors, historians, genealogists, property owners, developers, land-use consultants, and engaged citizens to explore, uncover, and share the rich and diverse histories of our shared home. In short, for 120-years, the California Room has been a credible source of information at a time in our nation when judging what is true depends on access to accurate information.

As San José prepares to celebrate its 250th birthday in 2027, the loss of its preeminent public history repository would represent a profound civic failure. The proposed closure asserts that it would save \$388,000 in expenses without any consideration of the possible negative economic impact of forfeiting an asset of incalculable value. The economic impact of 5,400 annual in-person visits has not been taken into account and should be. To be sure, every expense dollar counts when you have a budget deficit, but the proposed reduction in California Room expenses of \$388,000 represents well less than 1% (0.006) of the library's total budget and well less than 1/1,000th (0.00007) of the City's total budget! And, while the saving would result in a relatively inconsequential reduction of the deficit, the closure of access to the California Room will set in motion a long term change that will be difficult for the Library Department to reverse.

For the benefit of the people of San Jose, I urge you to maintain funding for the California Room at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in the 2026–27 budget. Please preserve public access to our shared history, and demonstrate that San José values its cultural heritage and civic memory.

Thank you for your serious consideration,

Mike Sodergren (Resident of D10)

President



Fw: Keeping the California Room in the Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:08 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: John Kostka <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 11:41 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]> <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Keeping the California Room in the Library Department Budget

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom it may concern,

As an alumni of SJSU's history department, having graduated in 2024, I oppose the closure of the Martin Luther King Jr. Library's California Room. It is an invaluable resource for undergraduate and graduate research into topics concerning our city and state, and its staff are incredibly helpful in locating pertinent resources.

For unlike the archives at King, the collection weds the two ideals of browsibility and curation. You can look at the stacks and see what's on offer, as well as ask the room's staff for recommendations. It makes it accessible to student researchers who're just beginning their work with academic history, as well as members of the general public who might be lost in a more formal archive setting.

Its the first stop for people with historical questions they want answered.

In my years as a student, my fellow students and I were able to use the room to begin research into such fascinating topics as the region's low-riding car culture, Cold War industrial base, and early political history. It is a critical repository for out-of-print, limited-run, local history books, studies, and biographies, which are useful to the academic users of the King Library. To close the room means not only restricting the access of the casual researcher to this information, but the academic users as well.

I draw your attention to this fact to point out that the California Room is actively filling a crucial niche that satisfies a critical information need in our community. To end its service would be to eliminate a source of information for academic, as well as casual inquiry.

Yours,

John C. Kostka

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room and Importance of Librarians Helping Patrons in Person

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:08 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Cp Brook <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 12:12 AM
To: 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]>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan
Subject: California Room and Importance of Librarians Helping Patrons in Person

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget

Message:

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.

Why is so much now two extremes? What happened to mediated solutions such as keeping it open, but less hours, if necessary.

Sincerely,

Connie

Mountain View, CA

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:08 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Jared Garcia <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 12:29 AM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED] District 10 <[REDACTED]> District 9 <[REDACTED]>
District 8 <[REDACTED]> District 7 <[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]>
District 5 <[REDACTED]> District 4 <[REDACTED]> District 3 <[REDACTED]>
District 2 <[REDACTED]> District 1 <[REDACTED]> Bourne, Jill <[REDACTED]>
Maguire, Jennifer <[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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

Fw: California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:08 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Michela Dellolio <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 2:06 AM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]> Maguire, Jennifer
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> Bourne, Jill <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor,

We count on you to care about San Jose's history!

We 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. We 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,

Michela, François and Chiara
Concerned Santa Clara County Residents

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: Buck The Trend to Erase History | California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:10 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Michele Bertolone <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 7:37 AM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Bourne, Jill <[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> Maguire, Jennifer <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Buck The Trend to Erase History | California Room - Library Department Budget

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Mayor Mahon and Councilmember Michael Mulcahy,

I have heard you both begin countless speeches praising San José's proud history and offering it as a reason for our city's success. I was surprised to learn, under your leadership, that the council plans to gut the MLK California History room.

This is an essential resource for a vibrant educated community, both for scholars and the general public, for anyone interested in a fuller, richer, or just more personal understanding of our past.

The closure will make accessing SJ history facts essentially impossible, as it will be impractical for 99.9% of those interested to navigate the logistics involved to hunt down primary sources, which now are at researcher's fingertips at MLK.

Why would San José erect new barriers to access our history? Why should only a very elite few, with time/money, be able to read/experience our shared history? Who do we want telling the story of San

José?

Additionally, regardless of intention, the decision to close the Cal Room aids strong and powerful forces in our nation today who seek to flatten history narratives; strip perspectives and nuance; and hinder ongoing interpretation.

Most sincerely, I do not think this what either of you intend/want/support, especially given your education which I know was based on shared Humanistic ideals. My hope is but to appeal to those ideals and ask you to protect this program in the spirit of them.

In closing, 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,

Michele Bertolone
Willow Glen Resident, District 6

"Survival is insufficient." (Emily St. John Mandel)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room at Dr MLK Jr. Library SJSU

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:10 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: David Lopez <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 8:07 AM
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]> <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room at Dr MLK Jr. Library SJSU

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

I strongly 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,

Dr. David P. Lopez

Proud resident of District 3

Sent from my iPhone

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: Save the California Room!!!!

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:10 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Helen Lutke <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 8:43 AM
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]> <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Save the California Room!!!!

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

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

--

Helen Lutke

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget - My personal experience

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:10 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Brent Pearse <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 8:49 AM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> District9
<[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]> Bourne, Jill
<[REDACTED]> Maguire, Jennifer <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget - My personal experience

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Leadership:

I urge you to maintain funding for the California Room at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in the 2026–27 budget. This room has allowed me to research the development of mid century ranch architecture in San Jose, it's an indispensable resource that has allowed me to go back in time and scan articles, and advertisements from the 50's and 60's. I was able to locate the advertisement for my parents home, and we now have it framed in our living room. I plan to one day write a book about how the valley developed in the 50's and 60's focusing on this often overlooked style of architecture.

In my professional life working at VTA, I'm currently leading a study in partnership with SJSU Metropolitan Institute that is using California Room resources to research the harmful and adverse effects that the development of our local freeways had on disadvantaged communities.

Without this room and its resources we will not be able to repair the past harms, and have an accurate understanding of our City's history.

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,

Brent Pearce

District 9 Resident, 43 years

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: Monday May 11, 2026 City Council Agenda, Item 26-539, 2026-2027 Budget Study Sessions

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:10 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 8:49 AM
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: Monday May 11, 2026 City Council Agenda, Item 26-539, 2026-2027 Budget Study Sessions

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Honorable Mayor of San Jose, City Council, and City Librarian,

My name is Michael Cox. I am associated with people and organizations in the city that are pursuing historical recovery for educational purposes and civic cohesion.

Please maintain the funding for the California Room at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library for the 2026-2027 budget.

The California Room and its dedicated librarians are a critical resource for essential research that provides context, social history, and a positive touchstone for youth, academics, and the public. My first visit to the room was in 1976, as a freshman studying geology at San Jose State University. The staff was vital to my work. Even if the collection back then had included scanned items, as it does today, I would not have been able to make progress without knowledgeable staff. Staff was especially critical for navigating the microfilm collection.

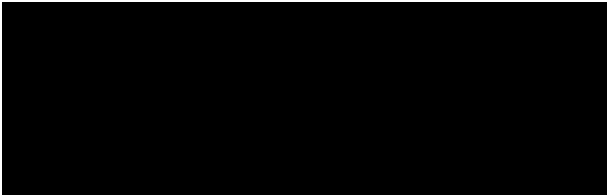
Since my first visit, I have been proud of the room. It is delightful to have a place that provides critical resource materials across the broad range of immediate civil needs and interests. The room is a vital resource for information recovery essential for modern civics and enterprise. Research ranging from individual histories to important mapping of social development and infrastructure have all relied heavily on the collections and staff of the California Room. Closing the room sends a negative signal at what is arguably the worst possible time as far as social divisions and complaints rather than pride in our shared heritage and enterprise.

Dialog with trained archivists immersed in the collections is an essential ingredient for inspirational historical recovery and interpretation. Eliminating staff and relying on computers is not the same. Staff and physical access are essential. Closing the room, an important, valued, and cherished resource, to save 0.06% of the overall city library budget, seems unwarranted and indefensible. Currently, San Jose is preparing for its 250th Anniversary. The California Room should and hopefully will be a center piece for the celebration.

I ask that you consider the staff and the physical collection as critical ingredients for necessary research and information recovery across broad interests regarding the place and space we call home. Please protect the California Room. It is a valuable asset and resource for all.

All my best to you and yours,

Michael F. Cox



This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room -- Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:11 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Sally Zarnowitz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 8:51 AM
To: 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]>
<[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room -- Library Department Budget

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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.

Especially now, with all of the ill conceived federal cuts, 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,

--

Sally Zarnowitz, Architect, LEED AP
PAC*SJ VP Advocacy

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room- MLK Library- Don't cut this budget!

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:11 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Mark Schroeder <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 8:53 AM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]> Maguire, Jennifer
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> Bourne, Jill <[REDACTED]>
District3 <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]>
District4 <[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]>
District 6 <[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]>
District 10 <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room- MLK Library- Don't cut this budget!

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

My wife and I regularly use the California Room in the MLK library. This is one of San Jose's sparkling gems! We love to go to learn more about our city history and educate ourselves. This room helps us all to become better citizens!

I urge you to maintain funding for the California Room at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in the 2026–27 budget. 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.

Thank you,
Mark & Sally Schroeder

Fw: California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:13 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Anna Lara <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 8:56 AM
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]> <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I am one of the many who rely on the resources and staff of the California Room for research of my family history, scanned photos, archives and all the information available for use. I've attended the exhibits and events there. The California room is used by many for our community.

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,
Anna Lara, District 7

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:06 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: O <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 6:36 PM
To: Webmaster Manager <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2
<[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5
<[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8
<[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]>
Cc: PRCLiaison <[REDACTED]>
Subject: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Mahan, City Manager Maguire, and Members of the City Council, I am writing as a user of Arcadia Ballpark to share concerns about the proposed FY2026-27 budget changes that would significantly alter how the facility operates. I am also copying the Parks and Recreation Commission liaison and would appreciate it if this message could be shared with commission members and included in any relevant public correspondence ahead of the budget cycle. I also ask that the City Clerk include this message in the public comment record for the Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session. The proposal (Parks Maintenance Redistricting, Citywide Sports Programming, and Lease Management) in the FY27 Proposed Budget would transition Arcadia from what the City itself describes as a "full onsite operations model with dedicated reservation and programming, concessions, and maintenance staff" to a facility where reservations are managed through the Citywide Sports Program field reservation system and maintenance is incorporated into a park maintenance district. Arcadia serves a wide and diverse community, including youth baseball, senior softball, adult recreational leagues, and competitive fastpitch programs. The proposed changes could affect all

of these groups in meaningful ways. **Facility upkeep and on-site presence** - Today, Arcadia has staff on site who are accountable for the condition of the fields, the playground, the bathrooms, and the surrounding landscaped areas. Under the proposed model, maintenance would be handled by a park maintenance district responsible for multiple parks across the city. While those teams do important work, a shared district model means Arcadia would be one of many facilities competing for attention rather than having a dedicated team whose primary focus is this facility. Users should expect that response times to issues, including field conditions, restroom maintenance, and equipment problems, may be slower than they are today. **City-managed leagues** - The on-site coordination and programming staff who currently run Arcadia's city-managed leagues would be eliminated under this proposal. That includes the adult slow pitch softball league, which currently costs \$900 per team for a season of 10 guaranteed games. Without a city-run option, teams would need to turn to private leagues, where comparable programs currently charge approximately \$1,100 per team for 6 guaranteed games. That is a significant difference in both cost and value, and there is no guarantee a private league would have access to Arcadia's fields under the new reservation model. It is also worth considering that the private league filling this void may not be a reliable long-term alternative. The local adult slow pitch league has changed hands three times in the past decade, a sign that operating a sustainable program in this market is harder than it looks. Players who lose access to the city league may find themselves with an option that is not only more expensive and shorter in duration, but potentially uncertain from season to season. **Reservations and scheduling** - Moving to the Citywide Sports Program reservation system means scheduling would be managed centrally, alongside all other parks and fields across San Jose. Users who currently benefit from on-site coordination and direct communication with facility staff may find the process less responsive. Centralized systems, while efficient at scale, can increase the risk of scheduling conflicts and make it harder to resolve issues quickly when they arise. **Field time allocation** - With on-site programming staff no longer overseeing Arcadia's calendar, there may be less active management of how field time is distributed across user groups. Today, that oversight helps balance access between youth, senior, recreational, and competitive programs. Without it, field time could shift based on demand and revenue rather than community balance, and groups with less organizational capacity may find it harder to secure consistent access. **Concessions** - The proposal notes that current concessions are part of the "full onsite operations model" being eliminated. It is not clear whether concession services would continue under the new model, be offered less frequently, or be discontinued. Users and families who rely on that amenity, particularly during full-day tournaments and youth events, should be aware this is uncertain. Arcadia is one of the finest publicly operated sports facilities in San Jose. These concerns are not about the staff who would take on responsibilities under the new model. They are about what is structurally possible when a dedicated facility team is replaced by a shared, citywide system. Arcadia Ballpark works. The fields are well-maintained, the leagues are affordable and in demand, and the on-site team delivers a level of service that is rare in a city park system. The proposed changes would dismantle that model to achieve savings that amount to a fraction of a percent of the overall parks budget. We ask the Mayor and City Council to reject this proposal and preserve Arcadia's current operating model in its entirety — its staff, its leagues, its concessions, and its on-site management. What exists today took years to build and will not be easily rebuilt once it is gone. Thank you for your time and public service. A Concerned Arcadia Supporter

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:06 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Zach Zagorski <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 6:55 PM
To: Webmaster Manager <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2
<[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5
<[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8
<[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]>
Cc: PRCLiaison <[REDACTED]>
Subject: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Mahan, City Manager Maguire, and Members of the City Council,

I am writing as a user of Arcadia Ballpark to share concerns about the proposed FY2026 27 budget changes that would significantly alter how the facility operates. I am also copying the Parks and Recreation Commission liaison and would appreciate it if this message could be shared with commission members and included in any relevant public correspondence ahead of the budget cycle.

I also ask that the City Clerk include this message in the public comment record for the Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session.

The proposal (Parks Maintenance Redistricting, Citywide Sports Programming, and Lease Management) in the FY27 Proposed Budget would transition Arcadia from what the City itself

describes as a "full onsite operations model with dedicated reservation and programming, concessions, and maintenance staff" to a facility where reservations are managed through the Citywide Sports Program field reservation system and maintenance is incorporated into a park maintenance district.

Arcadia serves a wide and diverse community, including youth baseball, senior softball, adult recreational leagues, and competitive fastpitch programs. The proposed changes could affect all of these groups in meaningful ways.

Facility upkeep and on-site presence - Today, Arcadia has staff on site who are accountable for the condition of the fields, the playground, the bathrooms, and the surrounding landscaped areas. Under the proposed model, maintenance would be handled by a park maintenance district responsible for multiple parks across the city. While those teams do important work, a shared district model means Arcadia would be one of many facilities competing for attention rather than having a dedicated team whose primary focus is this facility. Users should expect that response times to issues, including field conditions, restroom maintenance, and equipment problems, may be slower than they are today.

City-managed leagues - The on-site coordination and programming staff who currently run Arcadia's city-managed leagues would be eliminated under this proposal. That includes the adult slow pitch softball league, which currently costs \$900 per team for a season of 10 guaranteed games. Without a city-run option, teams would need to turn to private leagues, where comparable programs currently charge approximately \$1,100 per team for 6 guaranteed games. That is a significant difference in both cost and value, and there is no guarantee a private league would have access to Arcadia's fields under the new reservation model. It is also worth considering that the private league filling this void may not be a reliable long-term alternative. The local adult slow pitch league has changed hands three times in the past decade, a sign that operating a sustainable program in this market is harder than it looks. Players who lose access to the city league may find themselves with an option that is not only more expensive and shorter in duration, but potentially uncertain from season to season.

Reservations and scheduling - Moving to the Citywide Sports Program reservation system means scheduling would be managed centrally, alongside all other parks and fields across San Jose. Users who currently benefit from on-site coordination and direct communication with facility staff may find the process less responsive. Centralized systems, while efficient at scale, can increase the risk of scheduling conflicts and make it harder to resolve issues quickly when they arise.

Field time allocation - With on-site programming staff no longer overseeing Arcadia's calendar, there may be less active management of how field time is distributed across user groups. Today, that oversight helps balance access between youth, senior, recreational, and competitive programs. Without it, field time could shift based on demand and revenue rather than community balance, and groups with less organizational capacity may find it harder to secure consistent access.

Concessions - The proposal notes that current concessions are part of the "full onsite operations model" being eliminated. It is not clear whether concession services would continue under the new model, be offered less frequently, or be discontinued. Users and families who rely on that amenity, particularly during full-day tournaments and youth events, should be aware this is uncertain.

Arcadia is one of the finest publicly operated sports facilities in San Jose. These concerns are not about the staff who would take on responsibilities under the new model. They are about what is structurally possible when a dedicated facility team is replaced by a shared, citywide system.

Arcadia Ballpark works. The fields are well-maintained, the leagues are affordable and in demand, and the on-site team delivers a level of service that is rare in a city park system. The proposed changes would dismantle that model to achieve savings that amount to a fraction of a percent of the overall parks budget. We ask the Mayor and City Council to reject this proposal and preserve Arcadia's current operating model in its entirety — its staff, its leagues, its concessions, and its on-site management. What exists today took years to build and will not be easily rebuilt once it is gone.

On a personal note: I've been playing softball in the Bay Area for a few years now, in several leagues across multiple cities. Arcadia Ballpark is by far the best facility I've played at, and is more than worth the budget dollars to keep it that way.

Thank you for your time and public service,

Zach Zagorski (a concerned San Jose resident & softball player)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:06 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: jaspal mundh <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 7:40 PM
To: Webmaster Manager <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2
<[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5
<[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8
<[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]>
Cc: PRCLiaison <[REDACTED]>
Subject: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Mahan, City Manager Maguire, and Members of the City Council,

I am writing as a user of Arcadia Ballpark to share concerns about the proposed FY2026 27 budget changes that would significantly alter how the facility operates. I am also copying the Parks and Recreation Commission liaison and would appreciate it if this message could be shared with commission members and included in any relevant public correspondence ahead of the budget cycle.

I also ask that the City Clerk include this message in the public comment record for the Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session.

The proposal (Parks Maintenance Redistricting, Citywide Sports Programming, and Lease Management) in the FY27 Proposed Budget would transition Arcadia from what the City itself

describes as a "full onsite operations model with dedicated reservation and programming, concessions, and maintenance staff" to a facility where reservations are managed through the Citywide Sports Program field reservation system and maintenance is incorporated into a park maintenance district.

Arcadia serves a wide and diverse community, including youth baseball, senior softball, adult recreational leagues, and competitive fastpitch programs. The proposed changes could affect all of these groups in meaningful ways.

Facility upkeep and on-site presence - Today, Arcadia has staff on site who are accountable for the condition of the fields, the playground, the bathrooms, and the surrounding landscaped areas. Under the proposed model, maintenance would be handled by a park maintenance district responsible for multiple parks across the city. While those teams do important work, a shared district model means Arcadia would be one of many facilities competing for attention rather than having a dedicated team whose primary focus is this facility. Users should expect that response times to issues, including field conditions, restroom maintenance, and equipment problems, may be slower than they are today.

City-managed leagues - The on-site coordination and programming staff who currently run Arcadia's city-managed leagues would be eliminated under this proposal. That includes the adult slow pitch softball league, which currently costs \$900 per team for a season of 10 guaranteed games. Without a city-run option, teams would need to turn to private leagues, where comparable programs currently charge approximately \$1,100 per team for 6 guaranteed games. That is a significant difference in both cost and value, and there is no guarantee a private league would have access to Arcadia's fields under the new reservation model. It is also worth considering that the private league filling this void may not be a reliable long-term alternative. The local adult slow pitch league has changed hands three times in the past decade, a sign that operating a sustainable program in this market is harder than it looks. Players who lose access to the city league may find themselves with an option that is not only more expensive and shorter in duration, but potentially uncertain from season to season.

Reservations and scheduling - Moving to the Citywide Sports Program reservation system means scheduling would be managed centrally, alongside all other parks and fields across San Jose. Users who currently benefit from on-site coordination and direct communication with facility staff may find the process less responsive. Centralized systems, while efficient at scale, can increase the risk of scheduling conflicts and make it harder to resolve issues quickly when they arise.

Field time allocation - With on-site programming staff no longer overseeing Arcadia's calendar, there may be less active management of how field time is distributed across user groups. Today, that oversight helps balance access between youth, senior, recreational, and competitive programs. Without it, field time could shift based on demand and revenue rather than community balance, and groups with less organizational capacity may find it harder to secure consistent access.

Concessions - The proposal notes that current concessions are part of the "full onsite operations model" being eliminated. It is not clear whether concession services would continue under the new model, be offered less frequently, or be discontinued. Users and families who rely on that amenity, particularly during full-day tournaments and youth events, should be aware this is uncertain.

Arcadia is one of the finest publicly operated sports facilities in San Jose. These concerns are not about the staff who would take on responsibilities under the new model. They are about what is structurally possible when a dedicated facility team is replaced by a shared, citywide system.

Arcadia Ballpark works. The fields are well-maintained, the leagues are affordable and in demand, and the on-site team delivers a level of service that is rare in a city park system. The proposed changes would dismantle that model to achieve savings that amount to a fraction of a percent of the overall parks budget. We ask the Mayor and City Council to reject this proposal and preserve Arcadia's current operating model in its entirety — its staff, its leagues, its concessions, and its on-site management. What exists today took years to build and will not be easily rebuilt once it is gone.

Thank you for your time and public service.

A Concerned Arcadia Supporter

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:07 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Sarita Ojha <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 7:44 PM
To: Webmaster Manager <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2
<[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5
<[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8
<[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]>
Cc: PRCLiaison <[REDACTED]>
Subject: May 11th: Agenda Item - Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. Learn more <<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>>]

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Mayor Mahan, City Manager Maguire, and Members of the City Council,

Hello!!

I am writing as a user of Arcadia Ballpark to share concerns about the proposed FY2026-27 budget changes that would significantly alter how the facility operates. I am also copying the Parks and Recreation Commission liaison and would appreciate it if this message could be shared with commission

members and included in any relevant public correspondence ahead of the budget cycle.

I also ask that the City Clerk include this message in the public comment record for the Neighborhood Services Budget Study Session.

The proposal (Parks Maintenance Redistricting, Citywide Sports Programming, and Lease Management) in the FY27 Proposed Budget would transition Arcadia from what the City itself describes as a "full onsite operations model with dedicated reservation and programming, concessions, and maintenance staff" to a facility where reservations are managed through the Citywide Sports Program field reservation system and maintenance is incorporated into a park maintenance district.

Arcadia serves a wide and diverse community, including youth baseball, senior softball, adult recreational leagues, and competitive fastpitch programs. The proposed changes could affect all of these groups in meaningful ways.

Facility upkeep and on-site presence - Today, Arcadia has staff on site who are accountable for the condition of the fields, the playground, the bathrooms, and the surrounding landscaped areas. Under the proposed model, maintenance would be handled by a park maintenance district responsible for multiple parks across the city. While those teams do important work, a shared district model means Arcadia would be one of many facilities competing for attention rather than having a dedicated team whose primary focus is this facility. Users should expect that response times to issues, including field conditions, restroom maintenance, and equipment problems, may be slower than they are today.

City-managed leagues - The on-site coordination and programming staff who currently run Arcadia's city-managed leagues would be eliminated under this proposal. That includes the adult slow pitch softball league, which currently costs \$900 per team for a season of 10 guaranteed games. Without a city-run option, teams would need to turn to private leagues, where comparable programs currently charge approximately \$1,100 per team for 6 guaranteed games. That is a significant difference in both cost and value, and there is no guarantee a private league would have access to Arcadia's fields under the new reservation model. It is also worth considering that the private league filling this void may not be a reliable long-term alternative. The local adult slow pitch league has changed hands three times in the past decade, a sign that operating a sustainable program in this market is harder than it looks. Players who lose access to the city league may find themselves with an option that is not only more expensive and shorter in duration, but potentially uncertain from season to season.

Reservations and scheduling - Moving to the Citywide Sports Program reservation system means scheduling would be managed centrally, alongside all other parks and fields across San Jose. Users who currently benefit from on-site coordination and direct communication with facility staff may find the process less responsive. Centralized systems, while efficient at scale, can increase the risk of scheduling conflicts and make it harder to resolve issues quickly when they arise.

Field time allocation - With on-site programming staff no longer overseeing Arcadia's calendar, there may be less active management of how field time is distributed across user groups. Today, that oversight helps balance access between youth, senior, recreational, and competitive programs. Without it, field time could shift based on demand and revenue rather than community balance, and groups with less organizational capacity may find it harder to secure consistent access.

Concessions - The proposal notes that current concessions are part of the "full onsite operations model" being eliminated. It is not clear whether concession services would continue under the new model, be

offered less frequently, or be discontinued. Users and families who rely on that amenity, particularly during full-day tournaments and youth events, should be aware this is uncertain.

Arcadia is one of the finest publicly operated sports facilities in San Jose. These concerns are not about the staff who would take on responsibilities under the new model. They are about what is structurally possible when a dedicated facility team is replaced by a shared, citywide system.

Arcadia Ballpark works. The fields are well-maintained, the leagues are affordable and in demand, and the on-site team delivers a level of service that is rare in a city park system. The proposed changes would dismantle that model to achieve savings that amount to a fraction of a percent of the overall parks budget. We ask the Mayor and City Council to reject this proposal and preserve Arcadia's current operating model in its entirety — its staff, its leagues, its concessions, and its on-site management. What exists today took years to build and will not be easily rebuilt once it is gone.

Thank you for your time and public service.

A Concerned Arcadia Supporter
Sarita Ojha
Sent from my iPhone

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:47 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Julie Hardin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 9:21 AM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> Maguire, Jennifer <[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> Bourne, Jill <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room - Library Department Budget

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

I strongly 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.

For those of us with older homes and an interest in San Jose history, the California Room is a precious resource - please find a way to keep it open!

Sincerely,

Julie Hardin



This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room at MLK Library

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:47 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Meg Eppel Gudgeirsson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 9:38 AM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]> Maguire, Jennifer
<[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]>
District2 <[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]>
District5 <[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]>
District8 <[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room at MLK Library

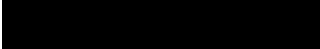
[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I am emailing to support providing the necessary resources to save the California Room at the Martin Luther King Library for the 2026 27 budget. In a time when so much of our access to history is being threatened, San Jose needs to work to protect rather than dismiss spaces like the California Room. And as a historian who teaches California History at Santa Clara University I can say with experience that this is an invaluable resource to our community and shuttering it would be a great disservice. 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.

Thank you for your consideration and attention,
Meg Eppel Gudgeirsson, PhD (she/her)
Asst. Teaching Professor, Department of History
Director, Silicon Valley Studies Initiative
Digital Humanities Initiative Faculty Associate Coordinator
Pre-Law Advisor


To schedule an appointment, please use this [link](#).

“Historians don’t just study history. We construct it. We puzzle pieces into meanings. Aided by our instincts and experiences, as well as by our research, we make sense of other times, other nations, other peoples. In that sense, the writing of history is always personal.” - Joanne Freeman

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fw: California Room

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 10:04 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Jessica Kissinger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 10:00 AM
To: Jessica Kissinger <[REDACTED]>
Subject: California Room

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]


You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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,
Jessica Kissinger
District 9

Fw: support for the California Room - Library Department Budget

From City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Date Fri 5/8/2026 9:06 AM
To Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

 1 attachment (776 KB)
supportCaliforniaRoom.pdf;

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Lames <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 6:24 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]> Maguire, Jennifer <[REDACTED]>
Cc: City Clerk <[REDACTED]> Bourne, Jill <[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]>
Subject: support for the California Room - Library Department Budget

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

Dear Mayor Mahan, Councilmembers, and City Manager,

Attached please find a letter in support of the MLK Library California Room, signed by over a dozen members of the community who appreciate our local history and enjoy doing research to learn more about our vintage homes. Please adjust the city budget so as to preserve this valuable resource.

Thank you,

~Larry Ames,
longtime community and preservation advocate -- and proud owner of a century-old home.

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

May 6, 2026

Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
City of San Jose

We, the undersigned, are opposed to the proposed closure of the California Room historic collection at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. We instead suggest using a reduced schedule to reach budget cutting goals.

We are fans and owners of old historic architecture. We depend on the resources in the California Room to understand the history of our properties, their construction and their prior owners. Many of us learned how to research through the guidance of California Room staff. The resources in the California Room helped us to prepare applications to declare properties historic and to understand how to restore them. Some of the specialty materials are not available in any other archive or library. Less than 10% of the collection is digitized and some things that we used in our research are over-sized or fragile and could not be brought to us.

Some of us remember when the California Room was closed during the 1998—2000 downturn. Many materials disappeared and the collection damaged—even though the doors were locked. We fear a repeat.

Please keep the California Room open. History doesn't stop!

Sincerely,

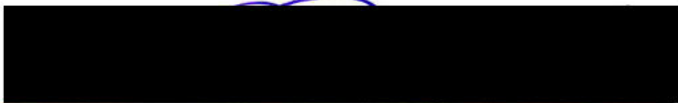
RONALD HAGEN
(printed name)


(signature)

Carl Peter Anderson
(printed name)


(signature)

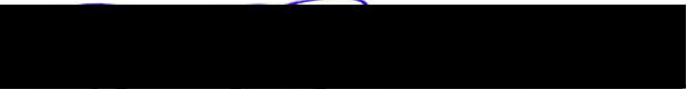
JONATHAN
(printed name)


(signature)

JOHN FROLLI
(printed name)


(signature)

DAVID OXLEY
(printed name)


(signature)

Letter in support of the Main Library's California Room (continued)

Marcus Salomon
(printed name)


(signature)

SARA BRUCE
(printed name)


(signature)

Lori Tierney
(printed name)


(signature)

Michael Tierney
(printed name)


(signature)


Louise Swarrington
(printed name)


(signature)


Lorraine Glick
(printed name)


(signature)

William L. Glick
(printed name)


(signature)

DIANA TONE ADAMS
(printed name)


(signature)

Lawrence Ames
(printed name)


(signature)

(printed name)

(signature)