

For Immediate Release
Saturday, June 14, 2008

Contact:
Lorraine Oback, San José Public Library
(408) 808-2176

**Brian Clampitt, Department of Parks,
Recreation and Neighborhood Services**
(408) 793-4188

Groundbreaking for Bascom Library and Community Center *Community Celebration Kicks Off Construction of Joint Facility*

SAN JOSE, Calif. – Residents of the South Bascom area in Council District 6 joined city and library officials today in celebrating groundbreaking for the construction of a new 40,000 sq. ft., two-story joint library and community center. The \$30.1 million project is one of several planned to increase the availability of community services to underserved areas of San José, using funds from bond measures for parks and library construction approved by San José voters in November 2000.

"The new Bascom project represents the seventeenth library and the ninth community center that are being built thanks to our residents' support," said Mayor Chuck Reed. "Once built, the joint facility will be an important community gathering place for residents of West San Jose's neighborhoods and citywide. I am sure that residents of all ages will enjoy having easy access to a library and a community center in their neighborhood."

AT-A-GLANCE

Building size: 40,000 sq. ft.

Library:	20,000 sq. ft.
Seats:	130
Computers:	35
Group study areas:	12 persons
Quiet study areas:	16 persons
Storytelling area:	33 persons

Community Ctr:	20,000 sq. ft.
Multipurpose room	
with kitchen:	2,450 sq. ft.
Gymnasium:	10,000 sq. ft.
Fitness center:	1,450 sq. ft.
Game room:	1,000 sq. ft.
Parking:	100 vehicles

*For more information, see
project fact sheet*

- more -

District 6 Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio was on hand to join the celebration. “Today is a very special day for our community,” shared Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio. “I am proud of the many residents committed to ensuring that the Bascom Library and Community Center became a reality and the city’s perseverance in their commitment to the project.”

The new library and community center, designed by the architectural firm of Rob Wellington Quigley, was developed to meet certification standards as a LEED Silver Certified green building. It will be constructed on a highly visible two-acre site at 1000 South Bascom Avenue just a few blocks south of Santa Clara Valley Medical Center and within walking distance from Del Mar High School. Opening is projected to take place in spring of 2010.

The 20,000 sq. ft. library will include a living room with a fireplace, technology center, teen room, group and quiet study areas, along with ample room for seating, collections and computers. The 20,000 sq. ft. community center will include a large gym, multi-purpose room with kitchen, fitness center, a game room and a meeting room. Shared spaces will include an Internet café, program room and patio.

The audience dispersed after the welcoming remarks to inscribe “dream rocks,” which will later be incorporated into the foundation of the library and community center.

Onset of construction marks the official kick-off of a fund-raising campaign led by the San José Public Library Foundation to build a fund for furniture, equipment and opening day collections. Tax-deductible check donations to the *Branching Out Campaign* on behalf of Bascom Library may be addressed to San José Public Library Foundation, 150 E. San Fernando St., San Jose, CA 95112-3580. Donations by credit card are also accepted online at <http://www.sjplf.org/contribute.htm>.

#####