



Pacifica Library Project FAQs

Why do we need a need a new Library building?

Pacifica's current library branches must operate on ***one budget split in two***. This division results in fewer hours, fewer services and programs, and money spent to duplicate books and media materials. This model is financially unsustainable. One building is the sensible solution.

Can't we just retrofit the existing buildings?

Retrofitting or renovating is actually more costly. Each existing site has challenges – whether it's inadequate parking or expensive deferred maintenance. And retrofitting would still leave us with two locations that are not financially sustainable.

If Pacifica can't afford to maintain both branches, why don't we just close one branch for right now?

On their own, neither branch can provide adequate library services for Pacifica's population of 40,000. Severe space limitations would result in inadequate library services, computer access, staffing, parking, seating, materials, and family programming. In addition, the 2011 Needs Assessment found that the Sharp Park branch has significant accessibility challenges, including a steep, uneven path in the parking lot, as well as the lack of an elevator to connect the two floors.

How can Pacifica afford a new library?

Like most large public projects, a new library would be funded primarily through a local general obligation bond. The San Mateo County Library Joint Powers Authority would be responsible for the operating costs of a new library, while the City of Pacifica would be responsible for maintaining the building and grounds. This plan would be more economically efficient than renovating our existing facilities and continuing to operate in two buildings.

How does one new library benefit Pacifica?

One new Pacifica Library means a financially efficient building that will ***maximize operating funding***. Libraries are part of what makes a city healthy because they provide equal access to information. One library would be an important community resource for the most vulnerable Pacificans—children, teens, and seniors—in the following ways:

- The library is a community resource, providing programming that educates children and teens, engages seniors, and offers family resources. One modern library will also give Pacificans study rooms and community meeting spaces.
- A new library will be open longer hours, seven days a week.
- A new library will mean more materials in Pacifica. Currently, about half of our adult books, children's collections, CDs and DVDs are the same at both branches. By consolidating these materials in one location there will be more funds and space for bigger collections.

How will this library add economic benefit to Pacifica?

A modern, well-designed library in Pacifica will draw increased traffic to the Palmetto Avenue area, envisioned to become the City's "Main Street", and will bring more patrons to nearby businesses.

Why build the library at the corner of Palmetto Ave. and Montecito Ave.?

This is a geographically central location in Pacifica. Since the City already owns the land, there is no additional expense to purchase a site for the new library. The lot size is sufficient for a building of up to 35,000 square feet. Developers interested in the Beach Boulevard site agree that the new library is very compatible with their visions for a hotel operation neighboring the library at the site, and there is potential for sharing some parking and infrastructure costs with the Beach Boulevard developers. The new library is also compatible with the vision for Palmetto Ave. as it grows into its role as Pacifica's Main Street.

What is the risk from effects of storm surges and sea level rise to the library site?

Impacts of possible flooding and other environmental issues were already analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report released in July 2013. The EIR concluded that the likelihood of inundation would be "very remote and is considered less than significant." In an abundance of caution, the City commissioned another study this year conducted by Moffatt & Nichol, which reached the same conclusion. A copy of the study can be found here:

http://www.cityofpacifica.org/government/economic_development/hotelopp.asp

In addition, the sea wall south of the pier (built after the northern section of the sea wall and engineered differently) provides protection for the library site. Our Coast, Our Future, an organization that provides guidance for Bay Area planners and decision makers in combatting sea level rise, shows the site is not at risk for flooding in the next century, even during so-called 100-year storms – unless sea level rise exceeds 6 feet, which is outside the range of most predictions. In addition, Nancy Cave, district manager of the California Coastal Commission, expressed "...support for inclusion of a public library as part of the Beach Boulevard Redevelopment Project" in her letter to the City Manager dated November 20, 2015.

Aren't libraries becoming obsolete?

Actually, libraries are enjoying greater demand as they continue to evolve, offering more ways to gather information. Today, modern libraries are digital knowledge centers that provide online resources, access to technology, and helpful staff to teach patrons how to navigate new electronic devices and resources.

Virtually all public libraries provide public access to computers and the Internet, accompanied by technology training. This is particularly important as some 36 million American adults are in dire need of digital and literacy services. With over 80 percent of job applications now completed online, the public library continues to be a tool and resource for residents.

More than just places for books and research, today's libraries are community gathering places. Throughout the year, the library offers hundreds of community programs that educate children and teens, engage seniors, and offer family resources.

How does funding of the library work? How does the Library JPA work?

Pacifica is one member of the San Mateo County Library Joint Powers Authority (JPA) that was formed in 1999. As outlined in the JPA Agreement, member cities are responsible for maintenance and facility costs for their libraries and the Library JPA is responsible for operating costs.

Additionally, the Library JPA agreement specifies that members agree to set minimum service levels. Unique to the City of Pacifica, the operating hours funded by the JPA must be split between two branches. Currently, the two libraries in Pacifica are open a combined total of sixty (60) hours per week; however, due to overlapping hours between the two branch libraries, Pacificans have access to a library *for only 47 hours per week*.

By joining the JPA, Pacifica agreed that it would eventually operate one library building that would be capable of adequately meeting the needs of its 40,000 residents.

How can I find out more about plans for the new library?

The City has established a new *Library Advisory Committee* to assist with planning efforts. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at City Council Chambers, 2212 Beach Blvd. and are open to the public.

In addition, the City has hired an architecture firm to complete the new phase of design work for the library. *Group 4 Architecture* was selected from a group of ten firms that submitted proposals. County funds targeted for new library projects are mostly covering the costs of the next phase of design work.

For *more information*, please visit the new library project webpage on the City of Pacifica website at http://www.cityofpacifica.org/government/current_projects/new_library.asp or scan the code below.

Information can also be found on the Pacifica Library Foundation website at www.pacificalibraryfoundation.com.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



Pacifica's Library Use Patterns

Sharp Park Library*

❖ Close to Population Centers

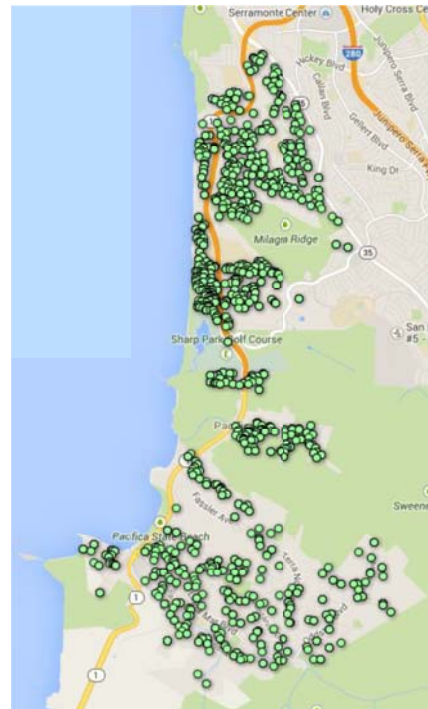
The Sharp Park Library is the closer branch for a majority of Pacifica residents per a comparison of its geographic location and the 2010 US Census.

❖ Geographically Central

Sharp Park is relatively central to both the northern and southern areas Pacifica.

❖ Evenly Distributed Use

Use pattern information shows the Sharp Park Library being used by patrons for all over Pacifica.



Sanchez Library*

❖ Distant from Population Centers

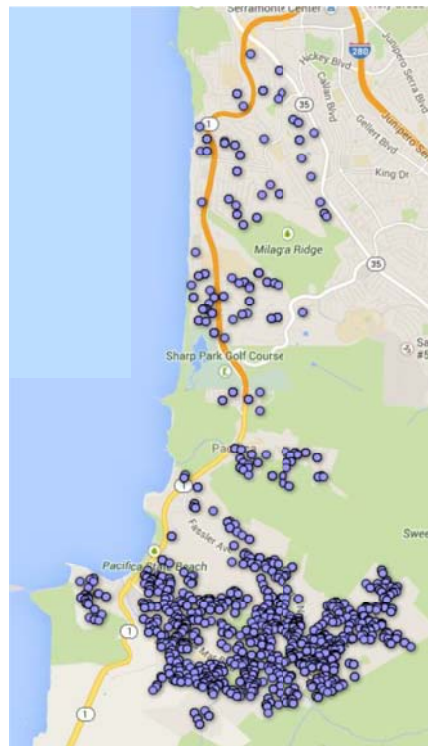
The Sanchez Library is closer to a minority of Pacifica residents per a comparison of the library's geographic location and the 2010 US Census.

❖ Not Geographically Central

Sanchez Library is located near the southern-most edge of Pacifica.

❖ Unevenly Distributed Use

Use pattern information shows the Sanchez Library being used primarily by patrons in the immediate proximity to the site.



* Dots indicate location of patrons checking out materials from that particular library.