



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

PRESS RELEASE

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GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW FELTON LIBRARY

The County of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Public Libraries and the Felton Library Friends welcome the public to attend the Sept. 21st groundbreaking for the new Felton Library, which represents a leap forward in public services by pairing a modern library with an outdoor education center while reflecting the San Lorenzo Valley community.

Enjoy music and refreshments as we celebrate the first library project in Santa Cruz County to be funded by Measure S, which was approved by voters in June 2016. The 8,900-square-foot Felton Library will include new and expanded collections and programs, teen and children's areas, a courtyard and numerous site improvements.

"It's incredibly exciting to be breaking ground on this project, which the Felton community has been waiting many years to be built," Santa Cruz County Supervisor Bruce McPherson said. "Once complete, the library will be a new community hub for the San Lorenzo Valley, a beautiful place to gather and learn."

Designed by local architect Teall Messer, the new facility will allow the Felton Library to move from its current location in the Belardi Memorial Building, which was built in 1893 as a Presbyterian Church and will be preserved for future use. In August, the Board of Supervisors awarded an \$8.3 million construction contract to Novato-based Thompson Builders.

In addition to Supervisor McPherson, Assemblymember Mark Stone, County Administrative Officer Carlos Palacios, Santa Cruz Public Libraries Director Susan Nemitz and Felton Library Friends Chair Nancy Gerdt are expected to speak at the groundbreaking,

"While we are fortunate to be on such solid financial footing going into the construction phase, we have launched a campaign to raise additional contributions from community



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members to support amenities inside the library,” Gerdt said. “We want to make coming to the library a really special experience for generations to come.”

The library will be located adjacent to a new Nature Discovery Park currently under design, a combination that is believed to be the first of its kind in California. The County has secured \$440,000 in grants and other funding for the Nature Discovery Park, with an additional \$400,000 provided should voters approve Measure G on the November ballot.

Assemblymember Stone secured \$1 million for the project through the state budget process.

WHAT: Felton Library groundbreaking

WHEN: Friday, Sept. 21, 4 p.m.

WHERE: Site of future library, Gushee and Hihn streets, Felton

INFO: <http://www.feltonlibraryfriends.org/>