

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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New Public Library for Morgan Hill Breaks Ground on May 13, 2006

The City of Morgan Hill will celebrate the Ground Breaking of the new Morgan Hill Library on May 13, 2006. The new library will be twice the size of the existing library and offer the city's residents an expanded collection and flexible spaces for library and community activities. It will combine innovative new services with an energy efficient modern design that harmonizes with the library's Civic Center site and the surrounding hillsides.

The library will have specially designed reading rooms for adults and children and a multi-purpose program room for a variety of library and community activities, including programs for young people. There will be self-check units to avoid queues and a fully automated book sorting system that will improve efficiency by speeding returned books directly to carts for return to the shelves. But one of the biggest surprises will be that the public will be able to use the library even during the hours it cannot be fully staffed. A new Flex Service Area positioned in the large and welcoming lobby will mean library patrons can retrieve their held books, browse new book materials, return books and view library displays without entering further into the library.

Inside, the library will achieve energy efficiency through its use of natural light, additional insulation and high-performance composite glazing. Outside, there will be a paved entry plaza featuring specially designed benches that resemble stacks of books and comfortable shady areas where people can sit and enjoy reading. Drought-tolerant, low-maintenance plants will be used and the lighting will create a warm, gently lit environment at night.

A priority for the library's architects, Noll & Tam Architects of Berkeley, CA, has been to create a building that uses natural colors and materials to complement its surroundings which include the landmark peak, El Toro.

"We wanted to bring the outside in by creating views, maximizing the use of natural light, and integrating the landscape and architecture," said Christopher Noll, Principal in Charge of the project. "When you sit in the main reading room, the view of the landscaped slopes and the hills behind them will create the illusion of reading in a garden."

The work now beginning on the library is a testament to a five-year collaboration between the City, its residents, the Santa Clara County Public Library, Morgan Hill Library staff, Friends of the Library, library programming consultants Kathryn Page and Anne Marie Gold, and Noll & Tam Architects. The reward will be a stunning new facility that will be at the heart of the community for many years to come.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Square Footage: 28,000 square feet

Project Cost: \$17.5 Million

Estimated Opening Date: Summer 2007

Morgan Hill Library Design Team:

Noll & Tam Architects

Christopher Noll, Principal in Charge

Merideth Marschak, Project Manager

Gabrielle Saponara, Project Architect

Trina Goodwin, Interior Architect

Anita Lee, Job Captain

Edith Bailon, Designer

Maxine Skaggs Kennedy, Designer

Subconsultants

Civil Engineer, MH Engineering Co.

Structural Engineer, Forell/Elsesser Engineers, Inc.

Geotechnical Engineer, Pacific Geotechnical

Mechanical Engineer, McCracken & Woodman, Inc.

Electrical Engineer and Lighting Designer, O'Mahony & Myer

Landscape Architect, Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey

Graphics & Signage, Kate Keating and Associates

Audio Visual, Charles Salter Associates

Noll & Tam Architects is a 25-person architectural and planning firm based in Berkeley, California. Founded in 1992, the firm has worked with over 25 cities in Northern California in the design of public buildings. Ranging in scale from libraries to community centers and administrative buildings, all of our projects demonstrate our commitment to the people and buildings that make for strong communities.

On the web: www.nollandtam.com



Rendering of the Morgan Hill Library by Robert Becker