

## **DOWNTOWN LIBRARY & AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT**

### **City Council Grants Final Approval**

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Santa Cruz (March 15, 2023) – The City of Santa Cruz today announced the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project was granted final approval to proceed by the Santa Cruz City Council on Tuesday, March 14, approving several permits needed to proceed with the project. The 5-1 vote by the City Council enables the City to finalize construction plans and seek funding, including essential grants.

The Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project key components and features include:

- 124 units of housing, 100% of which will be affordable units
- New Downtown Library, approximately 38,069 square feet
- Childcare facility, including 1,231 square feet of indoor space and 674 square feet of outdoor space
- Commercial tenant space, approximately 9,598 square feet
- 243 parking spaces for cars, including 25 level 2 EV charging stations, and 258 spaces for bikes, including a mix of varying sizes, bike lockers and e-bike charging

The Council approval also calls for a total of 36 new trees to be planted, including 14 on the project site and 22 to be planted in the greater Downtown area, to replace the existing 12 trees that will be removed for the project. Wood from existing trees on the site will be prioritized for potential use in the project.

Several recent milestones led to the Council's vote on Tuesday:

- In November 2022, local voters demonstrated their overwhelming support for the project. The project includes a new downtown library, affordable housing, a child care facility and shared parking.
- On Dec. 12, 2022, the City Parks and Recreation Commission upheld the tree removal permit issued by the Parks and Recreation Director, based on multiple technical assessments.
- On Feb. 23, 2023, the City Planning Commission reviewed the full application of permits, uses, design, reports and conditions of approval, and unanimously recommended that the Council approve the project. Two planning commissioners who had opposed earlier versions of the project supported the revised application because of its many improvements and benefits.

For more information about the Library and Affordable Housing Project, please visit:

<https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-departments/economic-development/development-projects/mixed-use-library-project>

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