

MAYORS' & COUNCILMEMBERS' ASSOCIATION OF SONOMA COUNTY

Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Sonoma, Windsor

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Costeaux French Bakery
417 Healdsburg Avenue
Healdsburg, CA 95448
Thursday, June 13, 2024
7:00 P.M.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kevin McDonnell (City of Petaluma)

2. ROLL CALL

| | | | | |
|------------|--|--------------|--|------------|
| Cloverdale | | Petaluma | | Sebastopol |
| Cotati | | Rohnert Park | | Sonoma |
| Healdsburg | | Santa Rosa | | Windsor |

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. General meeting minutes of April 11, 2024

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

If members of the public would like to provide public comment, we encourage you to submit them via email to the Association Clerk, Lauren Berges, by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting: semcaclerk@gmail.com

5. PROGRAM

A. Receive a presentation from Michelle Whitman, Executive Director, Sonoma County Community Development Commission/Member BAHFA Advisory Committee and Daniela Greville, Managing Director Forsyth Street Advisors: **2024 Bay Area Affordable Housing Bond: Regional Funding, Local Solutions**

6. REPORTS

- A. Board of Directors Meeting (Chair McDonnell)
- B. Mayors' Report (report from Mayor of each city)
- C. Sonoma County Library News
- D. Committee Reports

7. ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on August 8, 2024, in the City of Petaluma

/s/ Lauren Berges, Association Clerk

Upcoming 2024 General Membership Meetings

August 8, 2024 Petaluma

October 10, 2024 Rohnert Park

Mayors' and Councilmembers' Association of Sonoma County
General Membership Meeting
June 13, 2024
Page 2

Copies of all staff reports and documents subject to disclosure that relate to any item of business referred to on the agenda are available for public review the Monday prior to the regularly scheduled meeting on the City of Petaluma's Website at: <https://cityofpetaluma.org/mayors-councilmembers-association-of-sonoma-county/> or by email upon request to scmcaclerk@gmail.com. Any documents subject to disclosure that are provided to all, or a majority of all, of the members of the Association regarding any item on this agenda, after the agenda has been distributed, will be made available for review. Contact number: (707) 778-4360. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Petaluma City Clerk's Office at (707) 778-4360. Notification 72-hours prior to the meeting will enable the Association to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

MAYORS' AND COUNCILMEMBERS' ASSOCIATION OF SONOMA COUNTY

Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Sonoma & Windsor

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Cotati Room
216 E. School Street
Cotati, CA 94931
Thursday, April 11, 2024
7:00 PM

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Association Chair, Mayor Kevin McDonnell at 7:14 PM.
2. **ROLL CALL:** In attendance were the cities of Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Sonoma, and Windsor.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - A. General Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2024
Chair McDonnell introduced the item. There was a group consensus to approve the minutes of February 8, 2024.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.
5. **PROGRAM:**
 - a. Receive a presentation from David Rabbitt, District 2 Sonoma County Supervisor:
All Things County of Sonoma, 2024

Chair McDonnell introduced Supervisor Rabbitt who provided an overview on updates and events that are impacting Sonoma County. Supervisor Rabbitt responded to questions from the Association Members.
6. **REPORTS**
 - a. **Board of Directors Meeting**

Chair McDonnell reported on the evening's Board of Directors meeting.
 - b. **Mayors Report**

Mayors and Vice Mayors reported out on various programs, projects, and updates from their respective city/town.

c. Committee Reports

None.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair McDonnell adjourned the meeting at 8:48 PM

/s/ Lauren Berges, Association Clerk

2024 Bay Area Affordable Housing Bond

Regional Funding, Local Solutions



What is the Bay Area Affordable Housing Bond?



- Up to \$20 billion
- Would build and preserve ~72,000 affordable homes across the nine counties
- Subject to voter approval
- Most ambitious housing program in region's history
- Funds subject to strict accountability and oversight

The Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA)



- Agency leading the Bond proposal
- First regional housing finance agency in the state, created by CA legislature
- Mission to address housing affordability challenges at scale
- Collaborates with local governments, and governed by local elected officials
- Power to raise regionwide funding through ballot measures

Substantial Benefits to Every County

| County & Direct City Allocations | \$10B GO Bond | \$20B GO Bond |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Alameda County (excluding Oakland) | \$1 B | \$2 B |
| Oakland | \$383 M | \$765 M |
| Contra Costa County | \$930 M | \$1.9 B |
| Marin County | \$350 M | \$699 M |
| Napa County (excluding City of Napa) | \$59 M | \$118 M |
| City of Napa | \$123 M | \$246 M |
| San Francisco City and County | \$1.2 B | \$2.4 B |
| San Mateo County | \$1.1 B | \$2.1 B |
| Santa Clara County (excluding San Jose) | \$1.2 B | \$2.4 B |
| San Jose | \$1.1 B | \$2.1 B |
| Solano County | \$245 M | \$489 M |
| → Sonoma County (excluding Santa Rosa) | \$277 M | \$553 M |
| → Santa Rosa | \$121 M | \$242 M |
| Regional Funding (BAHFA administered) | \$2 B | \$4 B |

Total Bond Allocation Estimate for Sonoma County for a \$20B Bond

(excluding Santa Rosa)

| Bond Allocation | Estimated Share Amount | Approximate Bond Allocation* |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Total GO Bond Allocation | 100% | \$552.6 million |
| County Admin | 5% | \$27.6 million |
| Balance to Disperse | 95% | \$525 million |
| Balance to Disperse | Level | \$525 million |
| Production | 52% min. | \$273 million |
| Preservation | 15% min. | \$79 million |
| Tenant Protections** | 5% min. | \$26 million |
| Flexible Funding | 28% max. | \$147 million |

* Based on 2023-24 Assessed Values

** State law does not allow bond proceeds to be spent for non-capital (i.e., services) costs so funds assigned to tenant protection must be reassigned absent a change in law.

How will the Bond be Funded?

- Property owners will fund the Bond through annual taxes
- Contribution based on current assessed property value
- As of 2024, approximately \$24 per \$100,000 of assessed value for a \$20 billion bond



Sonoma County Expenditure Plan

Scope is for the **1st EP**.

GO bonds will be drawn over **multiple issuances** based on **how quickly** recipients can deploy funds.

Expenditure Plan will cover a period of **5 years (e.g., 2025-2030)**, and is **updated annually**. Shall include:

- Proposed \$ amount of county's GO bond funding to be drawn under first EP;
- Proposed \$ amount of funding allocated to the "3Ps";
- Estimated units produced and preserved; and
- Households served by income level (AMI).

General Rules for Cities/Counties

- All housing must be **deed-restricted**
- All housing must be affordable, for households **up to 120% AMI**
- Rental, ownership and interim housing all eligible
- **At least 47% of Production funds must be spent on ELI & VLI housing ($\leq 50\%$ AMI), and 27% on LI housing ($\leq 80\%$) AMI to match RHNA obligations**
- 28% Flexible Funds can be for housing and “affordable housing-related uses”



Press Democrat, September 2023

*Note: The earliest that BAHFA funds would likely be available is **Q3 2025**.*

Potential Project Landscape



Production

- Fill funding gaps - move stalled affordable housing projects forward
- Add funding certainty to cities' development pipelines



Preservation

- Prevent displacement of existing low-income residents
- Keep properties with expiring deed restrictions affordable
- Transition unregulated properties to permanent affordability

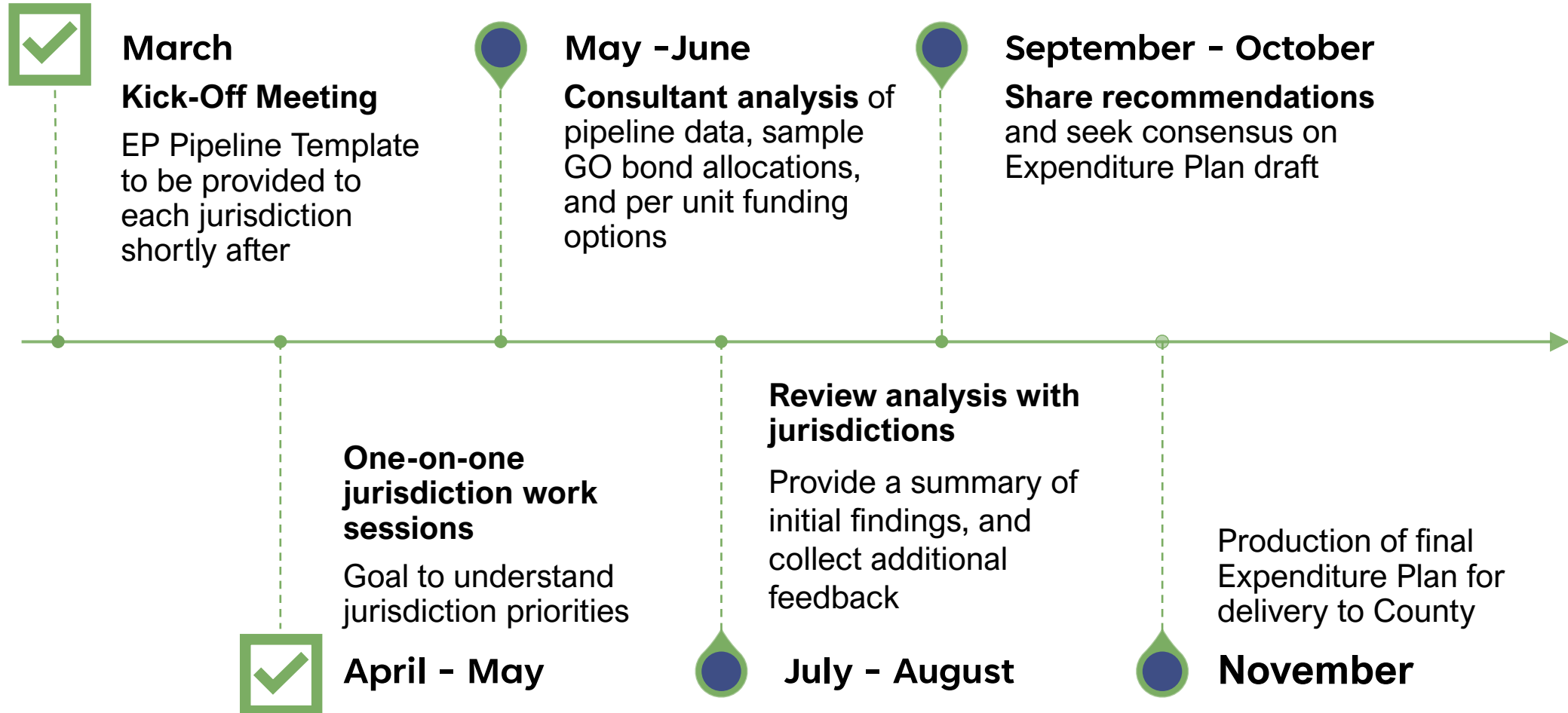


Flex Funding

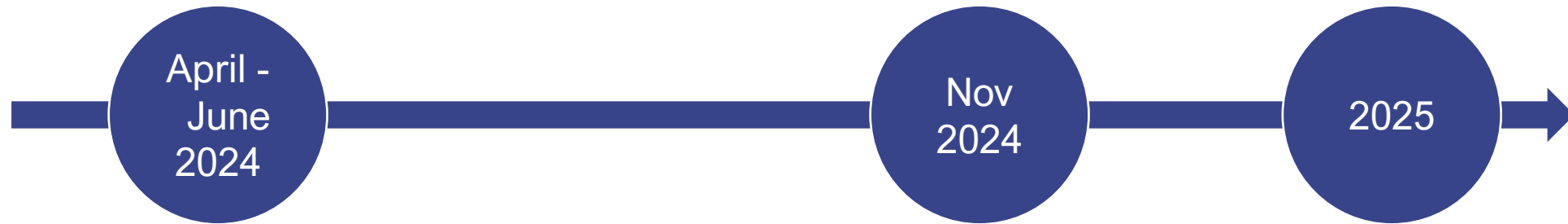
- Offsite infrastructure
- First-time homebuyer down payment assistance
- Mobile home rehabilitation
- Other

*BAHFA funding can support these types of projects through
subsidy loans and revolving loans.*

PROCESS | Schedule



Key Next Steps



- BAHFA Board & ABAG Executive Board to approve regional expenditure plan
- BAHFA Board & ABAG Executive Board vote to place Bond on the ballot in all 9 counties

Election

Local public meetings to approve local expenditure plans, with opportunity for public comment

How to Stay Informed and Engaged

Opportunities for Regional Engagement

- Monthly Public Board Meetings of BAHFA - noticed at <https://mtc.ca.gov/meetings-events>
- Sign up for BAHFA's mailing list: <https://mtc.ca.gov/node/4000256>
- Email BAHFA with questions! Bahfa@bayareametro.gov

Opportunities for Local Engagement

- Expenditure Plans must be approved at publicly noticed meetings with opportunity for public comment (2025)
- Counties must engage with their cities in the development of the plans.



Questions?

MAYOR'S REPORT

Resilient Cloverdale, the City, and Cloverdale's Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a successful "Neighborhood Fest" in City Park with free activities and food to encourage community connections.

Cloverdadians in the Clover Springs area also participated in a comprehensive emergency evacuation exercise put on by the Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management in collaboration with the Cloverdale Police Department. The drill simulated a large-scale evacuation to enhance the readiness of residents in the case of an actual emergency.

Weather isn't the only thing heating up - with the November election on the horizon, candidates are preparing for campaign season, and Cloverdale's City Clerk's office has gone digital with the candidate resources and election materials. Meanwhile, Cloverdale's City Council will be considering placement of an Urban Growth Boundary Extension amendment and a potential tax measure to the ballot.

Interested in receiving additional information and updates about City of Cloverdale events, initiatives, and activities? Subscribe to the Cloverdale Newsletter at www.cloverdale.net/list.aspx



Todd Lands, Mayor

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE AT THE PLAZA

- 6/14 - BANDA PACIFICA
- 6/21 - HOT BUTTERED RUM
- 6/28 - SCYTHIAN
- 7/5 - DARK
- 7/12 - TOM RIGNEY & FLAMBEAU
- 7/19 - SARAH SHOOK & THE DISARMERS
- 7/26 - MIDNIGHT NORTH
- 8/2 - ERIC LINDELL
- 8/9 - ¿QIENSAVE?
- 8/16 - JOSLYN & THE SWEET COMPRESSION
- 8/23 - SURFER GIRL
- 8/30 - THE STONE FOXES

DOWNTOWN CLOVERDALE
STREET FAIR - 6 PM
LIVE MUSIC - 7 TO 9:30 PM



Rohnert Park

MAYOR'S REPORT

MAYOR'S AND COUNCILMEMBERS' ASSOCIATION OF SONOMA COUNTY

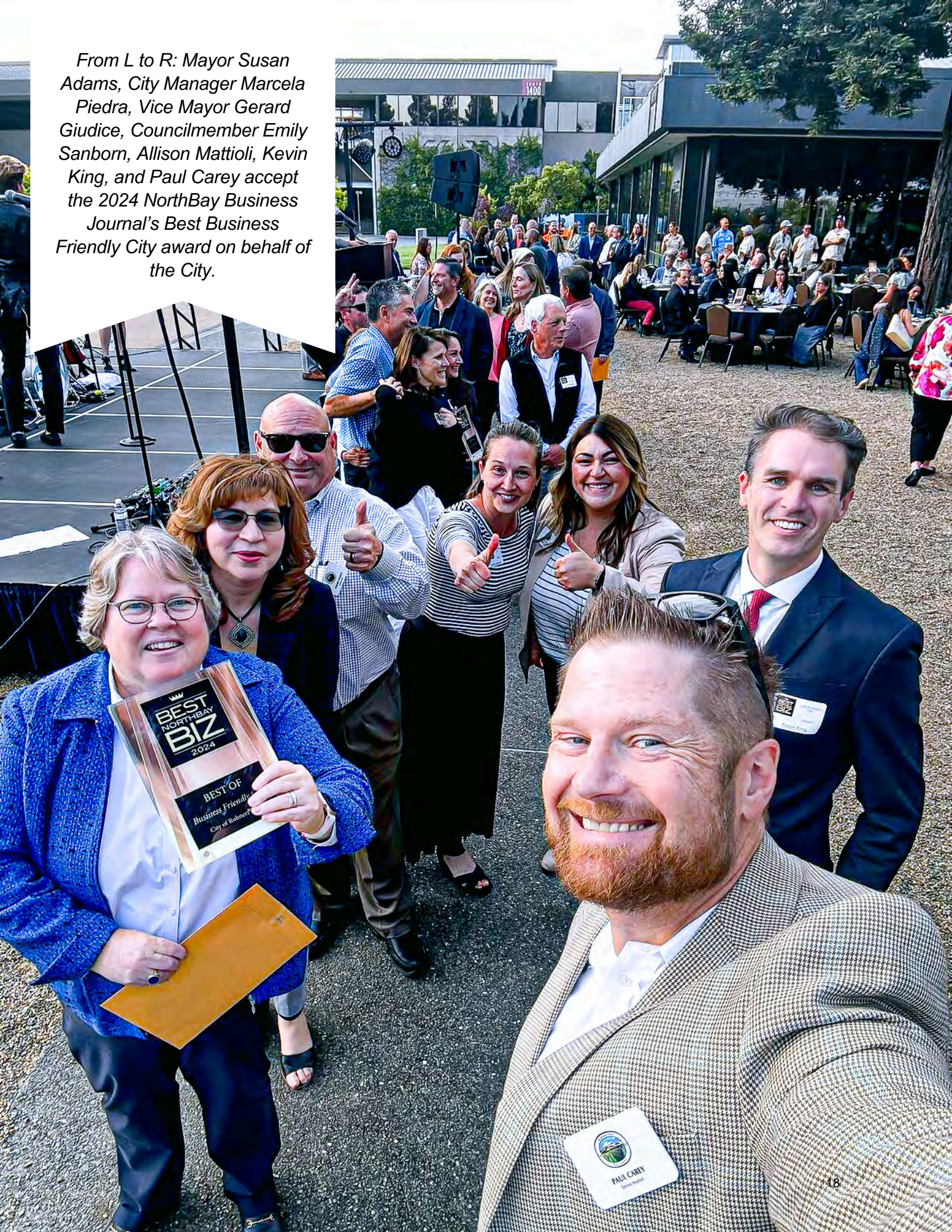
June 13, 2024



SUSAN H. ADAMS, MAYOR
Council District 5

sadams@rpcity.org | (707) 899-3085

From L to R: Mayor Susan Adams, City Manager Marcela Piedra, Vice Mayor Gerard Giudice, Councilmember Emily Sanborn, Allison Mattioli, Kevin King, and Paul Carey accept the 2024 NorthBay Business Journal's Best Business Friendly City award on behalf of the City.



ROHNERT PARK

"Our city staff ensures that we match that commitment to those who choose to invest in Rohnert Park."

—Marcela Piedra, city manager

By Alexandra Russell

What makes a city "business friendly"? "Being friendly is about choosing to respect others for their commitment and investment," says Marcela Piedra, city manager for the City of Rohnert Park, voted Best Business Friendly City in this year's *NorthBay biz* readers' poll. "Businesses in Rohnert Park place high expectations on themselves and have a willingness to execute at an exceptional level. Our city staff ensures that we match that commitment and execution to those who choose to invest in Rohnert Park."

Piedra continues, "Rohnert Park is recognized for its business-friendly environment, which has attracted a diverse range of enterprises. The city fosters an environment conducive to entrepreneurship and innovation, supporting local businesses while also attracting new investment."

Rohnert Park—population 44,000-plus—is known for several key attributes that make it attractive to residents, visitors and the business community alike. It was meticulously planned, incorporating thoughtful urban design principles to create a well-organized and aesthetically pleasing community. This planning extends to residential areas, commercial districts and public spaces, contributing to the city's overall livability.

Home to several big box retailers—Costco, Target, Home Depot, Walmart, and others—Rohnert Park also offers a unique opportunity for urban development with its plans to build a downtown area from scratch. What's more, explains Piedra, "The city offers any small business with a

headquarters in Rohnert Park reports on foot traffic and assistance on expansion, connection to the broader business community through our partnerships with the Rohnert Park Chamber of Commerce and Sonoma County Economic Development Board, and marketing and general promotion through our social media channels.

"[We're] often in direct contact with entrepreneurs and businesses interested in joining Rohnert Park, and we try to connect these businesses



Marcela Piedra



Adjacent to Graton Resort & Casino is the Oxford Suites which caters to tourists looking to discover more of Rohnert Park—or maybe test their luck at the casino.

to property owners and commercial real estate brokers," adds Piedra, who was appointed to her position in January 2023. Rohnert Park staff also delivers via customer service and permit intake assistance to businesses of all sizes, from entrepreneurs to global companies.

"In addition to a concierge service designed to assist business owners from concept to completion and beyond, Rohnert Park has dedicated itself to reshaping its permitting programs to ensure a smooth and simple beginning for any company willing to start here.

"Marcela [Piedra] has business development as a high priority, and that includes [her staff] doing all they can to make processing more efficient for businesses," says Lisa Orloff, CEO of the Rohnert Park Chamber of Commerce. "'The Friendly City' is the tagline for Rohnert Park, and it shows in many ways including the work by our city staff."

The city recently launched a new digital newsletter—issuu.com/rohnertparkcity—which highlights current information and news, program and project updates (such as progress on the new downtown and local business spotlights), upcoming events, recruitment opportunities and more.

For her part, Piedra is an enthusiastic cheerleader for her city. To *NorthBay biz* voters, she has this message: "Thank you for voting us Best Business Friendly City. Your support echoes our commitment to fostering a vibrant community where businesses can thrive." ❖



Rohnert Park prides itself on being a “planned community” with neighborhoods clustered around a park, an elementary school, and access to neighborhood retail.

Thanks to its planning efforts and commitment to promoting affordable housing, Rohnert Park earned the state’s pro-housing designation in 2023. These accomplishments, along with the City’s efforts to develop the downtown, were recently highlighted in an article by the League of California Cities.

A TALE OF TWO CITIES: NEEDLES AND ROHNERT PARK’S PRO-HOUSING JOURNEYS

*Guest article by Jackie Krentzman,
freelance writer and editor*

Rohnert Park: planning is in its DNA

Rohnert Park is perhaps a more familiar tale for some. In 1962, the Sonoma County community was incorporated as a planned city with 2,700 residents clustered in neighborhoods near schools and parks. But like many other cities during the 2007 economic downturn, it struggled to promote housing development. In fact, between 2007 and 2014, Rohnert Park issued no permits for new housing.

However, Rohnert Park (now 45,000) has made tremendous progress in the last decade. It has issued 1,972 new housing permits (300 affordable), far exceeding its state-mandated target of 899 units for the past eight years. The city has another 3,000 planned housing units in the pipeline. Many of these units are in three new, distinct neighborhoods: University District, Willowglen, and SOMO Village. Each development includes a park, market-rate and affordable housing units, and access to neighborhood retail.

Rohnert Park’s history as a planned community played a significant role in its ability to meet its housing goals. The city long had a robust general and specific housing plan, which means the sites that can accommodate housing have already been studied and approved.

“This prework provides certainty for developers and streamlines the development process,” said Housing Manager Jenna Garcia. “Our city council has always been very engaged in the long-term vision for how the Rohnert Park is being developed and has long prided itself on being developer friendly.”

The city also has gone above and beyond the state’s requirements by requiring that 15% of all new developments over 50 units be affordable. In 2022, Labath Landing — a 60-unit city-owned and sponsored interim housing project funded in part through the State’s Homekey program — opened. The city promotes affordable housing developments throughout the city and partners with the nonprofit Housing Land Trust of Sonoma County for an affordable ownership program.



“We’ve enjoyed tremendous success in the region and have developed a strong relationship with the city of Rohnert Park and its commitment to providing much-needed affordable housing to residents,” said Geoff Brown, president of USA Properties Fund.

For these efforts, Rohnert Park earned the **state’s prohousing designation** in 2023. This designation made the city more competitive for several state funding programs, including Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities, Infill Infrastructure Grant, and Transformative Climate Communities.

The designation and the funding it unlocks will improve the city’s ability to fulfill its vision of a robust downtown. For many years, residents have asked the city to create a vibrant mixed-use downtown district — a “heart” for Rohnert Park. In 2022, the city purchased a 30-acre parcel near the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit train station as the site for the future downtown. This new, walkable heart of Rohnert Park will include 300 to 500 residential units, a quarter of which will be affordable. Residents will also have access to a range of food, beverage, art, and retail options, an upscale hotel, walkable streets, and a central community square.

“The fact that the state has recognized our efforts is extremely gratifying and a major milestone that will allow us to build upon our ongoing commitment to housing development for all Rohnert Park residents,” said Mayor Susan Hollingsworth Adams. “We are committed to developing a vibrant community where residents have access to safe and affordable housing, both in our welcoming neighborhoods and in the coming years, a dynamic downtown.”

GROUNDBREAKING OF THE BICYCLE + PEDESTRIAN PATHWAY CONNECTING ROHNERT PARK + SANTA ROSA

Join us on Friday, June 14, at 3:30 p.m. at Andy's Unity Park in Santa Rosa to celebrate this exciting milestone as we work towards connecting more communities.

This pathway project underscores the commitment to sustainable and green transportation solutions. The SMART Pathway/Great Redwood Trail strengthens community bonds, provides access to outdoor activities, fosters social connections, and contributes to a more environmentally responsible North Bay.

Construction will begin this summer and, once completed, will create a bicycle and pedestrian pathway linking Penngrove, Cotati, Rohnert Park, and Santa Rosa.

Guests are encouraged to carpool due to limited parking availability. Parking will be available at the Recology parking lot, accessible from W. Los Robles Road. There is limited on-street parking near Andy's Unity Park.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



Come celebrate the Groundbreaking

of the SMART Pathway/Great Redwood Trail connecting Rohnert Park and Santa Rosa

Friday, June 14 at 3:30p at Andy's Unity Park in Santa Rosa





CONGRATULATIONS, COUNCILMEMBER SAMANTHA RODRIGUEZ

Congratulations to Councilmember and Sonoma County native Samantha Rodriguez on her 2024 40 Under 40 award!

Councilmember Rodriguez was appointed vice mayor of Rohnert Park in May 2022 and won her campaign in November leading her to become mayor in 2023. She is the first Latina and the youngest person to hold a seat on the Rohnert Park City Council.

With a career spanning education, city, county, state and federal programming throughout the North Bay, she is able to provide unique perspectives at council meetings.

In June 2023, she became executive director of El Centro Laboral de Graton (the Graton Day Labor Center). CLG is a nonprofit helping day laborers, domestic workers and their families advance their rights and dignity as workers, immigrants and community members.

To read the full profile on Councilmember Rodriguez in the North Bay Business Journal, please click [here](#).





JUNETEENTH LUNCHEON

Celebrating Freedom & Honoring Progress

SONOMA STATE
UNIVERSITY

*Lunch catered by
Red Rose Catering*



The City of Rohnert Park and Sonoma State University are proud to host the second annual Juneteenth Luncheon! The luncheon will take place on Wednesday, June 19 at 11 a.m. and promises to be an afternoon filled with reflection, unity, and joy.

As we gather to honor this significant milestone in history, we are delighted to extend an invitation to you, your friends, and your family. Please join us for a delicious lunch catered by Red Rose Catering, an esteemed local African American-owned business. Let your taste buds savor the mouthwatering flavors while we celebrate freedom, unity, and inclusivity together.

In addition to the tasty lunch, we have planned a special program to acknowledge the achievements and contributions of African Americans in Sonoma County, including a musical performance by Juke Joint Jukebox. During the event, we will honor two distinguished African-American individuals who have made a significant impact on our community.

We believe in making this celebration accessible to all, which is why admission to the Juneteenth event is entirely free. However, due to limited seating, advanced registration is required. Please click [here](#) to register.

This year, we have also added a free childcare option for children ages 3-10 years old. Childcare will take place on-site and will include lunch. Registration is required, [here](#).

To register, simply click on the "Book Now" button at the provided link. If you haven't created an account with the City of Rohnert Park, you will be prompted to create one during the registration process. This will enable us to keep you updated on future community events and initiatives.

Let us come together on Juneteenth to reflect on our shared history, strengthen bonds of camaraderie, and continue our collective journey towards a more inclusive and equitable future. We eagerly await your presence at this remarkable event!



PRESENTED BY CITY OF ROHNERT PARK COMMUNITY SERVICES



FAMILY | FOOD | FARMERS | LIVE MUSIC

FARMER'S MARKET 5-8PM | FREE LIVE MUSIC STARTS AT 6PM
FOOD TRUCKS | KIDS AREA | ARTS & CRAFT VENDORS | ADULT BEVERAGES

CHECK OUT OUR FREE LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP!

JUN 7: The BluesBurners | Electric Blues, Funk, Rock & Old School R&B

JUN 14: PRIDE NIGHT w/ Rohnert Park & Cotati Pride
XConfidence | Retro blend of 80's synth, 70's groove & today's hits

JUN 21: The Rotten Tomatoes | Rohnert Park's Favorite Garage Band

JUN 28: Rock and Roll Rhythm Review | Rockabilly, Jump Blues & R&R

JUL 5: CLOSED FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY! 🇺🇸

JUL 12: Janie & The Reformed | Classic Rock, Alt, Country & Blues

JUL 19: LATINO HERITAGE CELEBRATION w/ Rohnert Park Latino Alliance
Sang Matiz | Afro-Latin Funk

JUL 26: Sonoma Shakers | Classic Rockin' Dance Music

AUG 2: Jane Blonde & The Goldfingers | Dance Hits from the 60's to Today

AUG 9: Alamo Mission Band | Jerry Garcia Band Tribute

AUG 16: The JUGGS | The Judds Tribute Band

AUG 23: The Poyntlyss Sisters Rock & Show Band | Dance hits from the 50's to the 90's featuring Disco & the Girl Groups of the 60's

AUG 30: Aqua Net | 80's Hair Band with Wigs, Spandex & Hairspray

CITY CENTER PLAZA
500 City Center Dr., Rohnert Park

Questions? 707-588-3456
RPCOMMUNITYSERVICES.ORG





COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPECIAL EVENTS SCHEDULE 2024

Parks
Make
Life
Better!



Volunteer Recognition Dinner
@Community Center
Invite Only
APRIL 14
4PM-6PM



May the 4th Be with You
@Community Center
South Lawn
MAY 4
GATES OPEN AT 4PM



Summer Kickoff Expo
@ Technology High School
MAY 18
11AM-2PM

Memorial Day Event
@Community Center
MAY 27
10AM



Party on the Plaza & Farmer's Market
@City Center Plaza
JUNE-AUGUST
FRIDAYS
5PM-8PM



Juneteenth Celebration
@ Community Center
JUNE 19
11AM



RP JUBILEE
@Community Center Complex
JULY 4
12PM-4PM



Flynn Creek Circus
@Downtown Property
JULY 22-28
TIMES TBD



The Haunt: Brew and Scare Fest
@Community Center Complex
OCT 25
6PM-9PM



Halloween Carnival & Día de los Muertos
@Community Center Complex
OCT 26
12PM-5PM



Veteran's Day Event
@Community Center
NOV 11
11AM



Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair
@Community Center
NOV 29-30
10AM-4PM

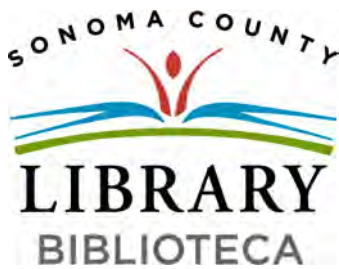


Holiday Lights w/ Rec the Halls
@Community Center Complex
DEC 7
TIME TBD




FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.RPCOMMUNITYSERVICES.ORG OR CALL 707-588-3456

Library News June 2024



"Libraries always remind me that there are good things in this world."

— Lauren Ward

MEDIA ALERTS PAGE 3

Our mission is to bring information, ideas, and people together to build a stronger community

FROM THE DIRECTOR



**Sonoma County
Library Director
Erika Thibault**

State Budget Impacts Felt Locally

Spring is budget season for public agencies, and this spring the State of California is facing a budget deficit that will negatively impact Sonoma County Library.

We rely upon funds received through the California State Library to provide an array of services to our patrons that we might otherwise be unable to offer.

This year, several important State Library projects are on the chopping block in Governor Newsom's most recent version of the budget, and these cuts will affect the services we provide to our residents. These include:

- The California Library Services Act. The Governor's May Revised Budget includes a 50% reduction of \$1.8 million for both FY 2024-25 and 2025-26. CLSA funding offsets some of our delivery costs, including our deliveries between Sonoma County, Lake County, and Mendocino County libraries. Providing funding to support the sharing of physical and electronic materials ensures that people with and without access to the internet can remain engaged and informed.
- Lunch at the Library. The Governor's May

Revision proposed the elimination of the entire \$5.5 million for this program—a reduction which would have led to public libraries throughout the state dropping their participation in the critically important food and enrichment program. Lunch at the Library serves youth who are in need of a nutritious meal during the summer months. At Sonoma County Library, we provide this service at seven of our branches during the summer, from Monday to Friday. For some children who attend our programs, the summer meal may be the only meal that particular child receives all day. Partial funding has been restored, but the amount to be cut is still \$2.5 million, which will impact libraries throughout the state.

While we understand that the state is facing a very challenging budget deficit in 2024-25, balancing the budget on the backs of children in need of a nutritional meal or delivery services to our small and rural libraries is unacceptable.

We urge you to contact your state legislators and let them know that we want funding for these crucial programs restored. The library has examples of letters that you can send to your legislators to let them know how important these initiatives are to our residents. Please contact libraryinfo@sonomalibrary.org for more information.

NOTABLE IN JUNE

In June, the library recognizes Pride Month, Juneteenth, and an annual celebration of literacy, our Summer Reading Challenge.

Connect With Us on Social Media

We invite you to connect with us on social media by following [@sonomalibrary](https://www.instagram.com/sonomalibrary). Learn more about our collections, events, and resources. You also can connect with fellow book, film, and music lovers and share inspiration for great reads, hear about the latest movies, or get information about library programs and services.

Library News June 2024

FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR



Library Commission Chair Deborah Doyle

Summer truly arrives in June. We hope you will take advantage of the library's programs, meeting spaces, and our BiblioBus.

You'll find our robust collections on library shelves, on computers and your phones. Use them at the coast, the river, the mountains or the woods.

Don't forget our WiFi hotspots as you go off the beaten track. We also hope readers of all ages will take part in our Summer Reading Challenge, June 1 through August 10. All events are free and you don't even need a library card to take part and win prizes.

Amazing summer adventures begin right here at the Sonoma County Library.

Free people read freely!

Learn More About Your Library

Library staff and volunteers are on the road this year, sharing the message about the extraordinary value of free public libraries. If you would like someone from the library to speak to your group, club, or organization, contact us at libraryinfo@sonomalibrary.org. We love to talk about the library!

Teen Film Festival Submissions Open

Now through July 31, Sonoma County teenagers can submit an original film to the Sonoma County Library's fourth annual Teen Film Festival. Films can be up to six minutes long, and must follow festival guidelines.

Filmmakers will be grouped into three age categories: 12 to 13-year-olds; 14 to 16-year-olds; and 17 to 19-year-olds. The top film in each age category will receive a \$100 gift card to a Sonoma County movie theater of the winner's choice.

Our teen services librarians will serve as judges. The public can view the winning films at the Teen Film Festival Premiere, which will take place August 28 at 6:30 pm at the Rohnert Park-Cotati Regional Library. For more details, visit sonomalibrary.org or any library.

OUR PATRONS SAY ...

From library patrons:

"Sonoma County libraries are a welcoming and relaxing place to research and explore books on all topics. Librarians are so helpful."

"I can order books online and receive an email when I can go pick them up. I can also renew online. It seems that I can get almost everything I want somewhere in the county system. I love you!"

"Your staff is wonderful. So helpful. Facilities are clean. The convenience of ordering in advance ... our Sonoma County libraries are true community centers!"



The Sonoma County Library Commission

Deborah Doyle, Town of Windsor, Commission Chair
Brooke Greene, City of Cloverdale, Commission Vice-Chair
David Cahill, City of Santa Rosa
Andy Elkind, City of Healdsburg
Fred Engbarth, City of Sebastopol
Eve Goldberg, County of Sonoma
Thomas Haeuser, City of Sonoma
Paul Heavenridge, City of Petaluma
Sarah Laggos, City of Santa Rosa / County of Sonoma
Barbara Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park
Cyan McMillan, City of Cotati
Erika Thibault, Library Director

MEDIA ALERTS: Press inquiries communications@sonomalibrary.org

Celebrate Diversity With Your Library

We love our diverse community, and we celebrate you all year

Annual Lectura Fest Celebration Set for June 8



On Saturday, June 8, the Sonoma County Library will host its second annual Lectura Fest, a bilingual celebration of reading, music and culture. More than 400 people are expected to attend the event, which runs from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm at the Central Santa Rosa Library.

Jessica Hoover, Central Santa Rosa Library's branch manager, said the biliteracy Spanish and English celebration creates a wonderful gathering place for families to spend time together reading, listening to music and watching performances.

"Lectura Fest is about shared stories," Hoover said. "It's a day for celebrating the joy of telling, hearing and creating stories through songs, videos, photography and of course books at the library. When kids see adults telling and reading stories, the whole family grows in appreciating the adventure of reading!"

The free event will include snacks, a bilingual magic show and performers including Chiquy Boom, René y Familia and Los Aventureros. The Children's Museum

of Sonoma County also will have an interactive play space available for kids.

Sonoma County Library to Celebrate Pride Month 2024

Queer book lists, LGBTQIA+-related events at various branches and parade participation are just a few of the ways the Sonoma County Library will celebrate Pride Month this June.

Pride Month both recognizes the queer community's past struggles and celebrates its growing inclusion and equality in Sonoma County and beyond. The Sonoma County Library strongly supports the LGBTQIA+ community through its collections and by creating a safe and inclusive space at all branches.

Sonoma County Librarian and Queer Advocacy Team Chair Javier Morales said the library's motto of Free People Read Freely particularly applies to the queer community. "Sonoma County Library branches are spaces where the queer community will always be welcomed and celebrated—not just during Pride Month, but every day," Morales said.

Join the Sonoma County Library in celebrating Pride Month this June and affirm the equality and visibility of our local LGBTQIA+ community. Visit sonomalibrary.org or any library for more information on how you can celebrate Pride.

