

OF SAN RAFAEL RAFAEL CITY SAN

LIBRARY DOWNTOWN



A RESEARCH TECTURE

AUGUST 2003



San Rafael Downtown Library Feasibility Study

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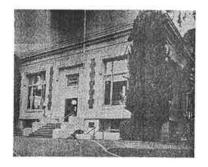
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Executive Summary

... to improve the quality of life for all residents of San Rafael by meeting their educational, cultural, and informational needs. We are committed to serving the needs of all ages, all socioeconomic groups, and all diverse cultures represented in San Rafael. We are committed to using new information technologies to extend, improve, and enhance our services to the community.

- Mission of the San Rafael Public Library

The City of San Rafael has a long history of providing quality library service to its residents, predating even the existing downtown Carnegie library, which has been in continuous service ever since its construction in 1908. In the early 1980s, the Library expanded its service to the community by adding a small branch in the Pickleweed Community Center, which serves the Canal area of east San Rafael. In March of 2003, the Library submitted an application for state library construction bond grant funds for a planned expansion of the Pickleweed branch. Following on the Pickleweed planning effort, this *Downtown Library Feasibility Study* was undertaken based on the City's concern that the current downtown facility seriously limits the provision of library services to the residents of San Rafael.

This study has confirmed the City's suspicions. Despite expansions in 1960 and 1976 to bring the downtown San Rafael Library building to its current size of 15,400 square feet, the facility simply has not been able to keep pace with population growth and the community's increasing need for library service and materials over the last 30 years. The building's physical constraints severely limit the Library's ability to provide even traditional services to residents, let alone new services and materials. The facility is beyond its capacity, and does not permit the implementation of newer, more efficient operational models, such as self-service checkout, that allow other cities to expand library services to residents while maintaining — or even reducing — their operational costs. The downtown San Rafael Library building is also in dire need of renovation, and its building systems (heating, ventilation, lighting, power, and data) require replacement.

To determine the amount of space required for the entire San Rafael Public Library system through the year 2020, industry guidelines for square-foot-per-capita library service levels were applied to projections of San Rafael's population provided by the City's Planning Division. Three-citywide library system options were then developed to determine the size needed for an improved downtown library facility (approximately 30,000 to 40,000 square feet). A number of potential development sites, including City-owned parcels as well as select privately-owned sites in the downtown area, were evaluated according to a list of criteria such as site capacity, cost, location, and public

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



San Rafael Public Library





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY







perception. This analysis led to the identification of four preferred sites: the existing library site, the "Blue House" and Annex/parking parcel, the Menzies parking lot, and a privately-owned parcel on Fourth Street, used for comparison. A number of preferred development options were also identified and then refined with conceptual diagrams and estimated project budgets.

Based on this analysis, it was concluded that the preferred option is to develop a larger library on the existing site, through either renovating and expanding the existing Carnegie, or replacing it with a newly-constructed building. This option is estimated to cost between \$14 million and \$17.5 million, not including parking (more on this in a moment). Advantages of developing an expanded facility on the existing site include:

- The Library would retain the prominent, attractive site it has inhabited for nearly 100 years.
- The site is currently owned by the City.
- The site's capacity is sufficient for even the high end of the needed square footage range (with zoning adjustments).
- The location strengthens the City's civic center complex.
- Opportunities for a shared parking solution with City Hall may reduce the overall need, and therefore the associated costs of providing parking.
- The site offers the potential to retain and enhance the existing Carnegie, taking into consideration the community's connection to the historical building.
- Expanding the facility will not increase the operating budget.

Developing an expanded library on the existing site would present challenges, however. The existing parcel is too small to accommodate an economical parking solution; developing parking on site would add an estimated \$3.8 million to \$8.4 million to the total project cost, depending on the size and configuration of the library building. Any option that includes preservation of the existing Carnegie building will be expensive, and the associated design constraints may prevent the development of a highly efficient operational plan. Even with renovation, the extent of the work will require the library to move into temporary facilities during demolition and construction.

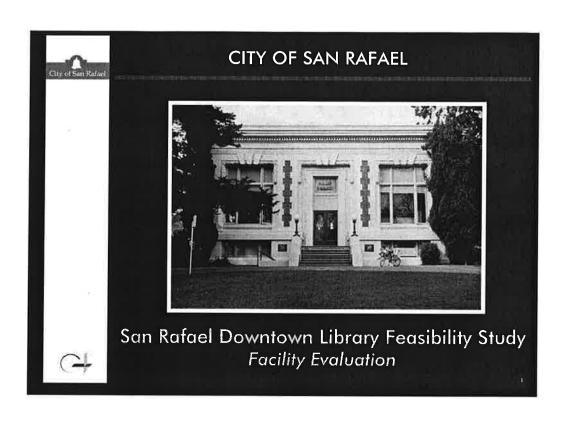
This *Downtown Library Feasibility Study* has documented the current condition of the main library facility in San Rafael, identified the need for library facilities in the community, and analyzed opportunities for meeting the identified needs. The next steps in planning improvements to the downtown San Rafael Public Library should include:

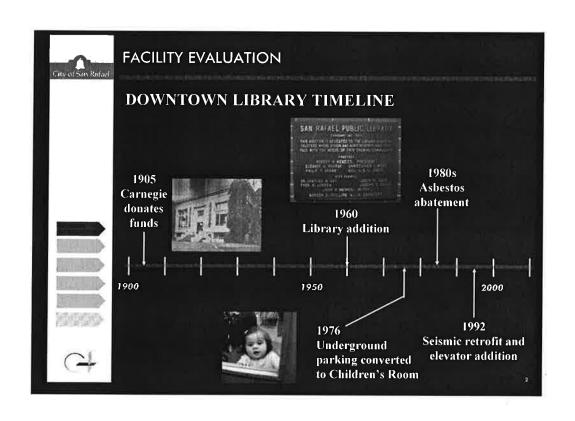
 Forming a public advisory committee to act as a sounding board for the project's development and to build community support for an improved library;

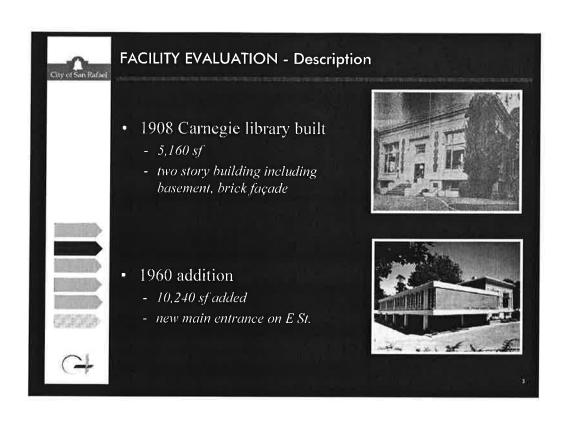
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

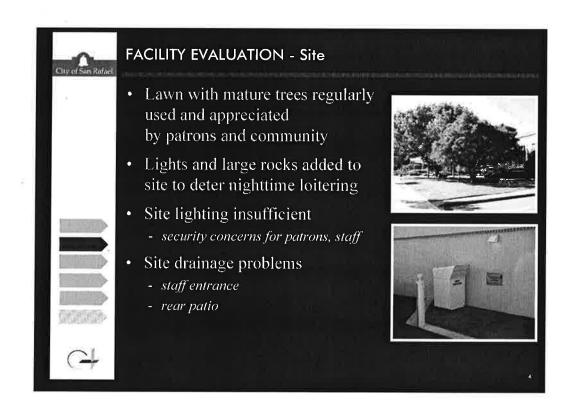
- Continuing to develop a shared parking approach with City Hall and other adjacent City facilities to efficiently meet demand while minimizing the costs of parking development; and
- Continuing to investigate potential funding sources, such as Marin County's proposed library sales tax measure, a local bond measure, or the next California library construction bond. Implementation of this project will require financial support beyond what is available through the City's General Fund.

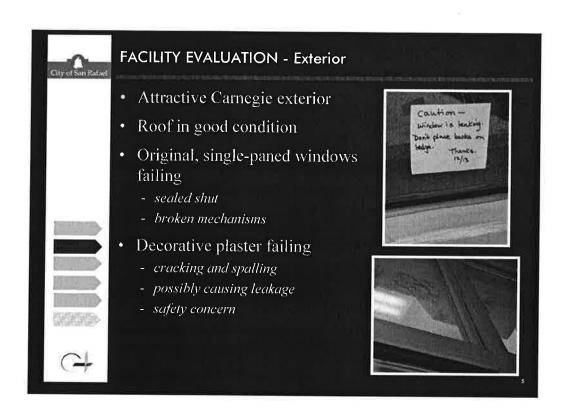


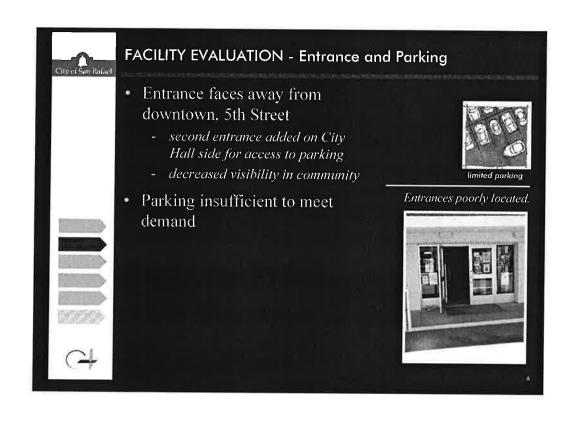










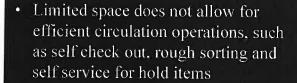




FACILITY EVALUATION - Lobby and Circulation

- Lobby is too small, resulting in crowding and clutter
- Staff is in direct line of exterior doors, resulting in extreme weather impact on working environment





- Children's Room is uncomfortably close to the lobby exit and driveway
 - safety concerns





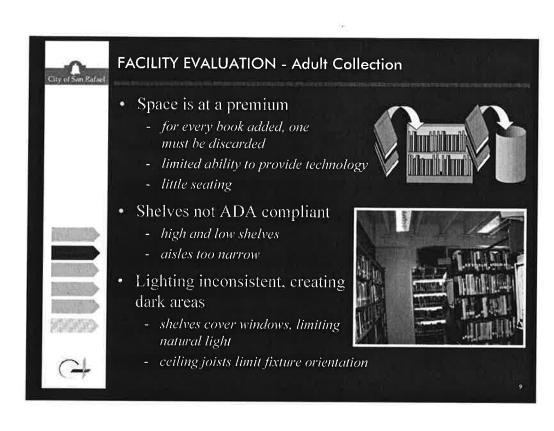
FACILITY EVALUATION - Carnegie Reading Room

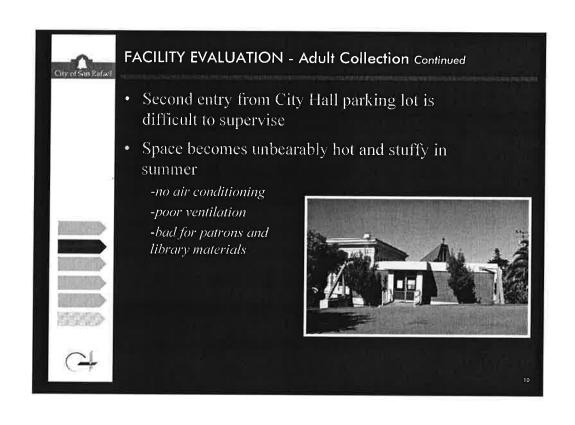
- Space is attractive and light-filled
- Poor temperature control and ventilation
 - no air conditioning
 - many windows have been sealed shut
- Seating is increasingly scarce as it has been replaced with books, media and technology over the years
- UV film over windows is peeling and unattractive













FACILITY EVALUATION - Children's Room

- Collection severely limited by lack of space
 - high shelving inaccessible to children
- · Seating insufficient
- Poor ventilation and no air conditioning results in discomfort
- Pre-cast concrete ceiling is low, doorways do not meet code height requirements
 - dark, cavernous ambiance





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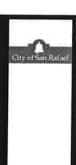
FACILITY EVALUATION - Children's Room Continued

- Inadequate lighting creates dark areas
 - unfinished pre-cast ceiling limits orientation of lighting fixtures
 - supplemental fixtures added
- Story telling area is too small to meet demand and room has multiple uses, such as literacy, tutoring, meeting, staff training, Friends' workroom
- No assigned work area for Children's Services









FACILITY EVALUATION - Non-Public Areas

- Technical services and literacy spaces are cramped
 - operationally inefficient because of space constraints
 - non-ergonomic workspaces
 - inadequate storage
 - insecure; public has open access
- · Circulation desk and staff work areas crowded
 - extremely inefficient and hazardous
 - non-ergonomic
 - limited space does not allow for incorporation of new service delivery models
- Staff kitchen and break room small
 - used for shelving and storage
 - direct connection to public areas
 - disruptive smell and odor migration



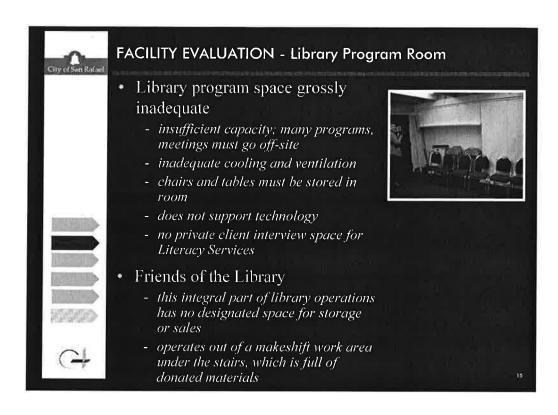
FACILITY EVALUATION - Storage Areas

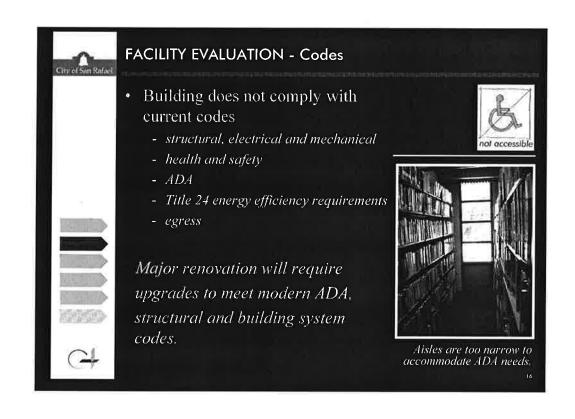
- Storage needs far exceed available space, resulting in encroachment into public and staff areas
 - corridors narrowed by carts and boxes
 - boiler room used for storage
 - storage closets filled to capacity
 - boxes in staff kitchen/break area, administrative offices













FACILITY EVALUATION - Structural and Mechanical

- Structural
 - 1992 seismic retrofit of 1960s addition
 - base of walls of Carnegie building are cracked
 - concrete panel roof at administration entrance deflecting
- Mechanical
 - temperature difficult to control
 - air distribution inadequate
 - supplemental fans and space heaters have been added throughout facility
 - boilers are at least 35 years old and inefficient
 - plumbing is dated, and costly problems have occurred (such as with sewer lines)





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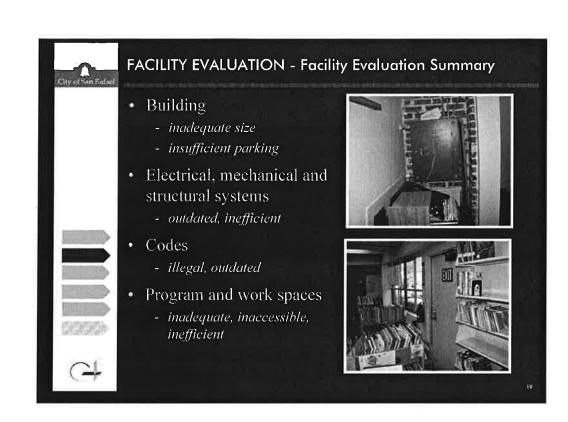
FACILITY EVALUATION - Lighting and Electrical

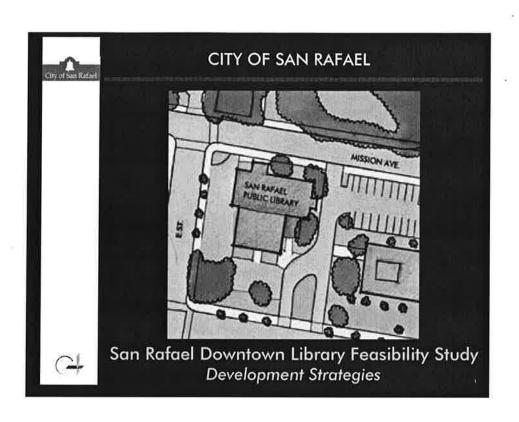
- · Most light fixtures are outdated
 - energy inefficient
 - poor light distribution
 - unattractive
 - costly to maintain
- Electrical and communications systems do not meet needs
 - electrical panels in public areas are insecure and violate code
 - infrastructure does not support the addition of technology and equipment (computers, copiers, etc.)
 - servers, phone equipment kept in room with radiant heating pipes

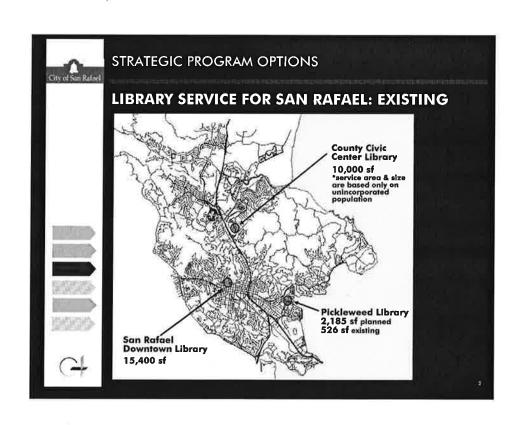


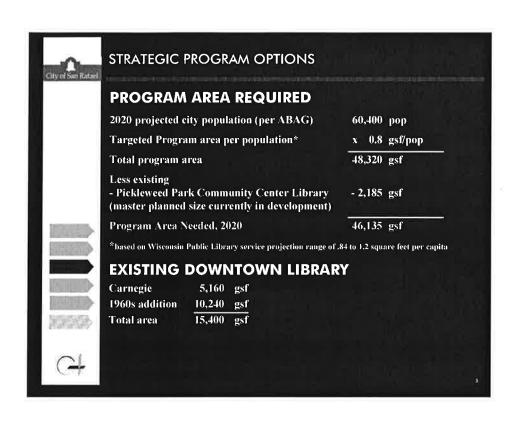




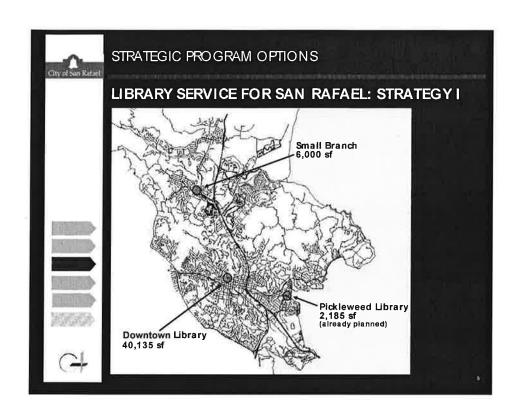


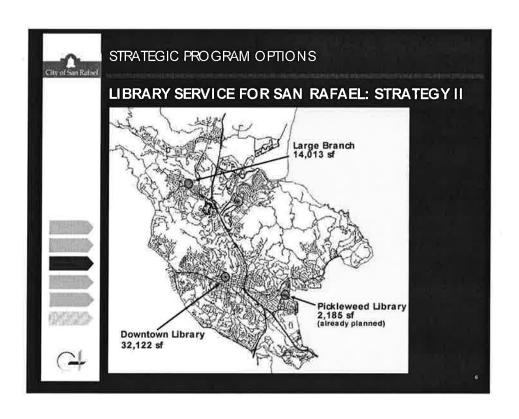


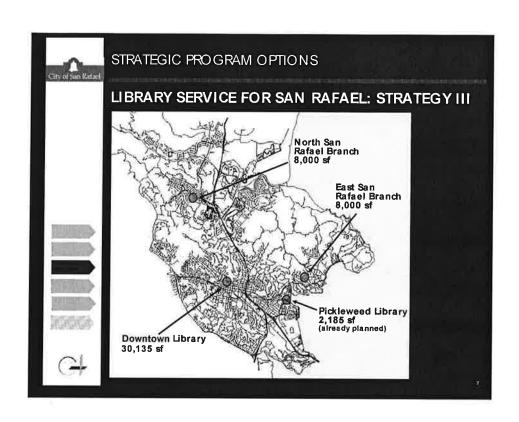


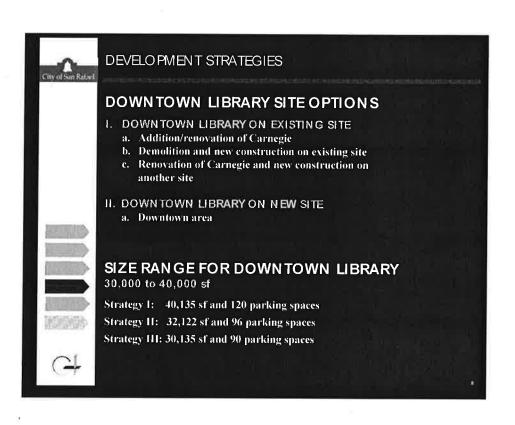


Facility	Strategy I	Strategy II	Strategy III
Downtown	40,135 gsf	32,122 gsf	30,135 gsf
Pickleweed	2,185 gsf	2,185 gsf	2,185 gsf
Small Branch	6,000 gsf		
Medium N. Bran	ich		8,000 gsf
Medium E. Bran	ch		8,000 gsf
Large Branch		14,013 gsf	
TOTAL GSF	48,320 gsf	48,320 gsf	48,320 gsf











DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES - Site Evaluation Criteria

Site Capacity

- Are the size, shape and slope sufficient to accommodate the building, parking and other site amenities?
- Does the site allow for future expansion?

Location

- Does the location of the site allow the library to better meet its service objectives?
- Is the proposed use compatible with the city's General Plan?
- Does the site support other city initiatives and revitalization efforts?
- Is the site centrally located for residents of the proposed service area?
- Is the site close to other community services (schools, shopping, etc.)?
- Will new vehicular, bieyele and/or pedestrian traffic patterns place undue burden on surrounding property owners?
- Is the site located within a redevelopment area?
- Does the site allow the operation of a safe and secure library building?
- Is the site easily and safely accessible by pedestrians, bicycles, vehicles and the disabled? Continued....





DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES - Site Evaluation Criteria

 Does public transportation provide service within a reasonable distance of the site?

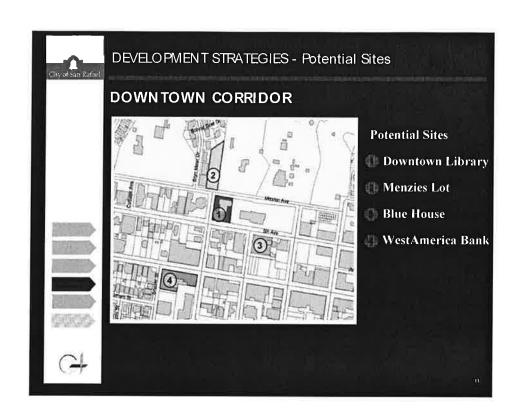
Visibility, Aesthetics and Community Perception

- Does the site have a high profile in the community?
- Does the site offer any aesthetic value to the proposed library building?
- · Has the community shown any interest in having services provided at this site?

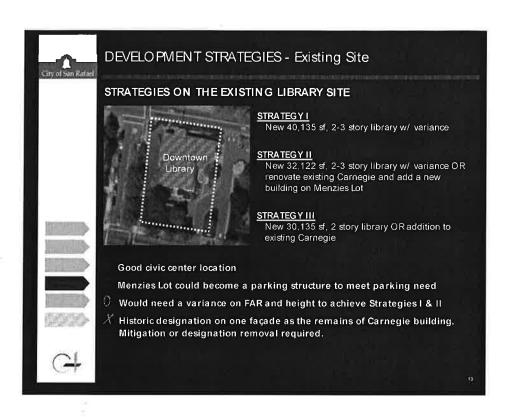
Cost and Availability

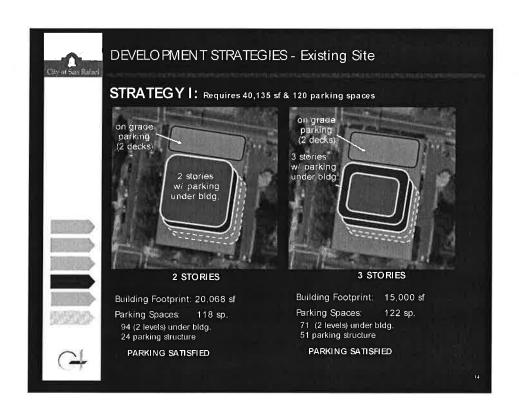
- Does the city own the site?
- Is the site affordable?
- Is the site available, or will it become available within a reasonable amount of time?
- Do any site conditions require cost-prohibitive mitigation measures?
- Are there significant relocation or other costs associated with acquiring the site?
- Are there environmental or economic liabilities associated with the site?
- Is the site competitive for outside funding opportunities (such as Proposition 14)?

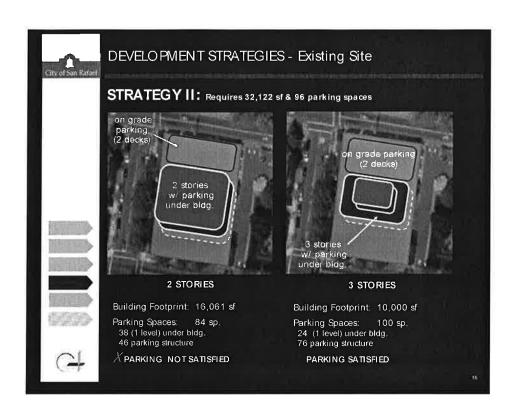


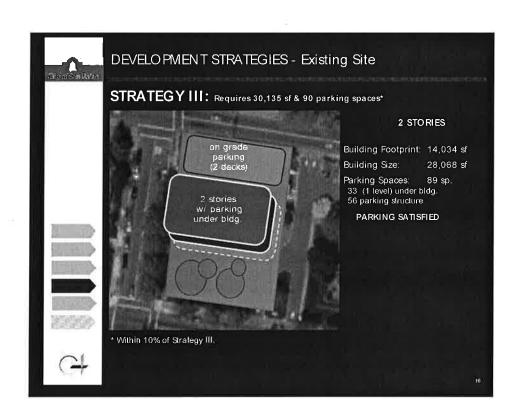






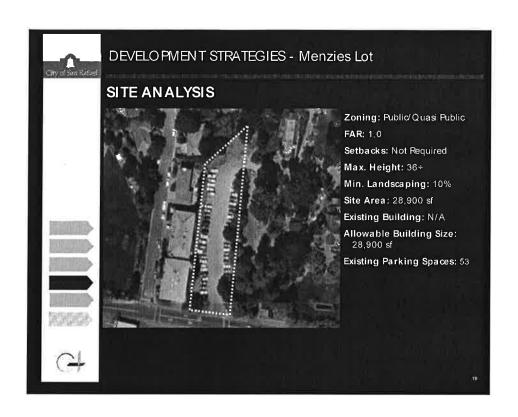








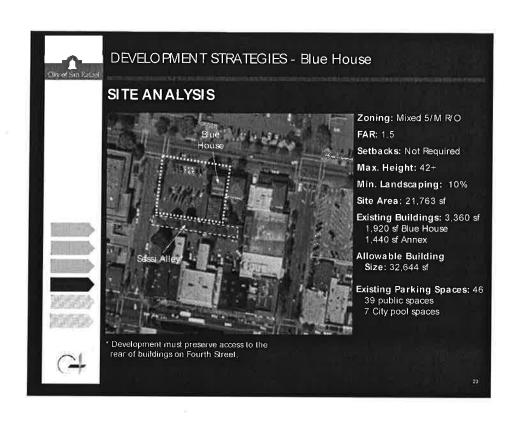


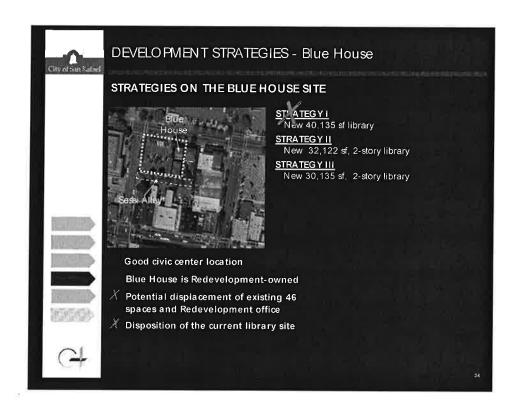


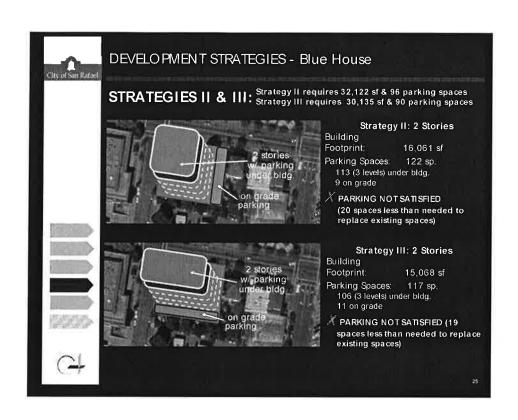


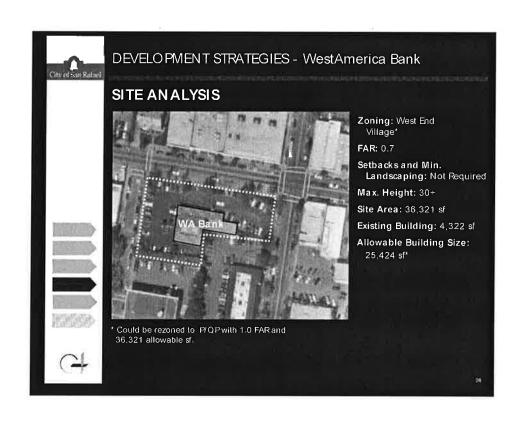


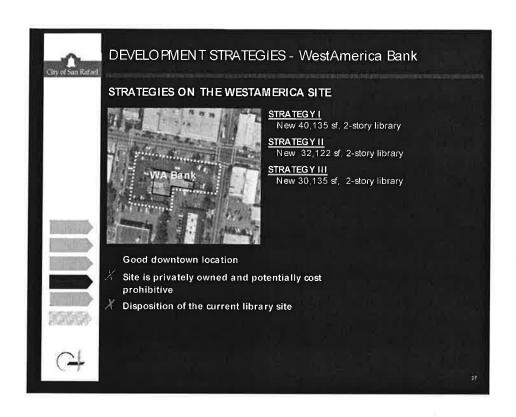


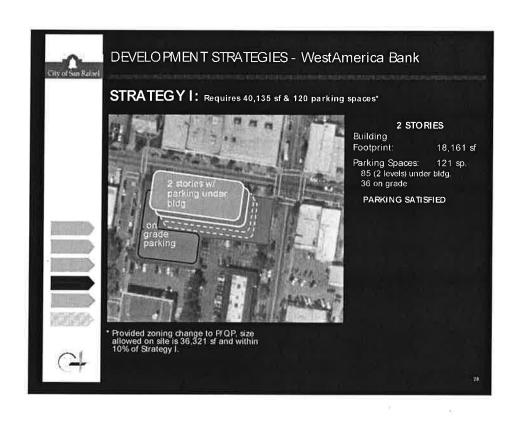








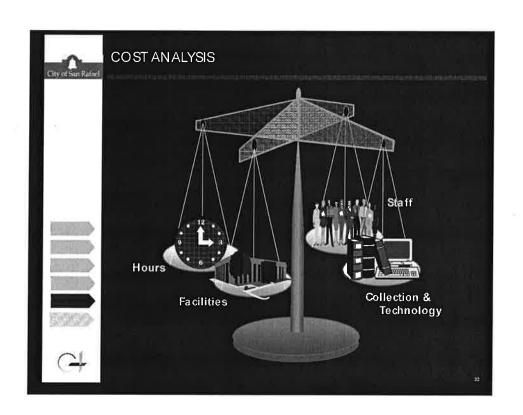


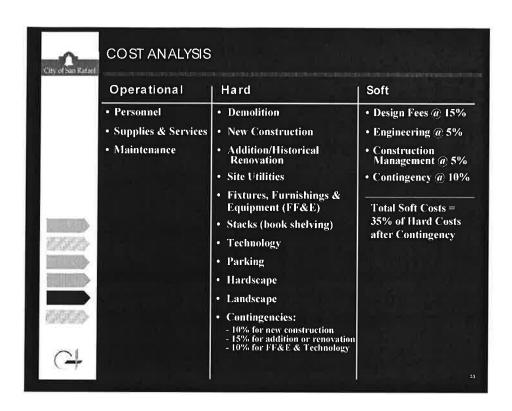






Site	Strategy I Bldg/Pkg	Strategy II Bldg/Pkg	Strategy III Bldg/Pkg	Other Bldg/Pk
EXISTING SITE				
2 Stories	1	1X	1	
3 Stories	/	1		
Renovation/Addition			1X	
Historical Renovation			بإنسك	1/4
MENZIES LOT				
2 Stories	XIX	XIX	1	
20,000 sf combined w/ Downtov	rii			7
Parking Lot				1
BLUE HOUSE	VIV	1 - 1	, 3/	
2 Stories	XIX	1 X	ΙX	
WESTAMERICA BANK 2 Stories	j.	ý	,	





Operating Budget	Strategy I	Strategy II	Strategy II
Downtown*	\$1.7 m	\$1.6 m	\$1.6 m
Pickleweed	\$151 k	\$151 k	\$151 k
Small Branch	\$494 k		
Medium N. Branch			\$542 k
Medium E. Branch			\$542 k
Large Branch		\$722 k	100
TOTAL	\$2.3 m	\$2.5 m	\$2.8 m
* The current operating bud	get for the Downtown	Library is \$1.6 m	

Building Costs	Strategy I	Strategy II	Strategy III	Othe
EXISTING SITE			5.1.3	
2 Stories	\$25.9 m	\$19.2 m	\$17.6 m	
3 Stories	\$25.3 m	\$19.6 m	620 -	
Renovation/Addition Historical Renovation			\$20.5 m	\$11.11
Historical Kellovation				311.11
MENZIES LOT				
2 Stories			\$18.6 m	
20,000 sf Combined w/ D	owntown Libra	ry		
Parking Lot	S24.3 m			\$6.0 m
				30.0 111
BLUE HOUSE 2 Stories		\$22.7 m	\$21.2 m	
		9 	92112 111	
WESTAMERICA BANK				
2 Stories	\$26.7 m	\$21.1 m	\$19.9 m	
*includes land acquisition budget				

Strategy I	2 Stories	3 Stories
Building	\$17.6 m	\$17.6 m
Parking	\$ 8.4 m	\$ 7.7 m
TOTAL	\$25.9 m	\$25.3 m
Strategy II	2 Stories	3 Stories
Building	\$14.2 m	\$14.2 m
Parking	\$ 5.1 m	\$ 5.4 m
TOTAL	\$19.2 m	\$19.6 m
Strategy III Building Parking TOTAL	2 Stories \$12.4 m \$ 5.2 m \$17.6 m	Renovation/ Addition \$16.7 m \$ 3.8 m \$20.5 m
Historical Ret Building Parking TOTAL	10vation \$11.1 m \$ 0 m \$11.1 m	

Strategy I	N/A	
Strategy II	N/A	100
20,000 sf	Combined w/ D	owntown
Building	\$17.1 m	
Parking	\$ 7.2 m	
FOTAL	\$24.3 m	
Strategy III	2 Stories	
Building	\$13.1 m	
Parking	\$ 5.5 m	
TOTAL	S18.6 m	
Parking Lot		
Building	\$150* k	
Parking	\$ 5.8 m	
OTAL	S 6.0 m	

