



AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

Meeting Date: June 27, 2023

Subject Los Altos Library Patio Project

Prepared by: Jennifer Weeks, County Librarian-Santa Clara County Library District (SCCLD) and Rose Baiza, Community Librarian- SCCLD

Attachment(s):

1. Letter of Funding Commitment (LALE)
2. Funding Commitment (Donor)
3. Letter of Support (History Museum)
4. Letter of Support (Library Commission)
5. Letter of Support (Friends)
6. Google Earth Map of Proposed Site
7. Concept Diagrams of Patio Space
8. Land Survey

Previous Council Consideration:

None.

Fiscal Impact:

The Library Patio Project is fully funded by private donations through the Los Altos Library Endowment. The cost of the project is estimated to be \$2 million with no funding required from the City of Los Altos. Cost for review and approval of the Design Review application could be waived if authorized by the City Council.

Environmental Review:

The City Council action authorizing the review of the proposed project is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3). Subsequent action taken during the review of the proposed project will be analyzed separately under CEQA.

Policy Question(s) for Council Consideration:

- Does the City Council wish to send this proposed project to the Development Services Director for review and necessary approvals for the use and expansion of approximately 7,700 square feet for construction of an enclosed patio with transitional green space at the Main Library.

Reviewed By:

City Manager

GE



Subject: Los Altos Library Patio Project

Summary:

- The Patio Project is fully funded by the Los Altos Library Endowment and supported by the Santa Clara County Library District who will take the lead on the public project management.
- The proposed library patio will provide the community with 7,700 square feet of safely enclosed outdoor space that can be used by residents of all ages to read, study, learn, and explore. Working in partnership with the History Museum, this project creates educational experiences both within the Historic Orchard and attached to the main library.
- Based on the needs assessment for the library, additional public space is a priority to allow the library to offer free educational events and flexible spaces for patrons to read and study. The current library community room space is limited in both size and accessibility, and this new extension creates an interactive outdoor space that will encourage discovery for all ages, as well as expand seating and event spaces.
- The History Museum and library are natural partners that can work collaboratively to highlight the Historic Orchard through innovative programming with a new outdoor patio space. The library and Orchard Commons joint programming ideas include diverse creativity, healing in nature, adopt-a-tree, oral history with apricots and orchards, and nature journaling and sketching.
- The patio project provides many opportunities for public programming with local organizations including schools, Master Gardeners, and GreenTown. Other potential community partners include LASD Living Classrooms, LASD Art Docents, The Garden Club of Los Altos, ArtVentures, Santa Clara Watercolor Society, and Ikebana.
- The project is supported by the Los Altos Library Endowment, the Chou Family, the History Museum, the Library Commission, and the Friends of the Los Altos Libraries.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends, if the City Council approves the proposal, sending the item to the Development Services Director for review and necessary approvals of this project.

Purpose

To create an outdoor space that provides residents with a place to read, relax, study, work, and learn. The patio will be used to provide free library programs for all ages, as well as open seating to use during leisurely time. Backed with research from professional library journals, outdoor



Subject: Los Altos Library Patio Project

spaces in libraries enhance the lives of residents. Due to limited space inside the library, library staff feel strongly that the outdoor space will expand options to best meet the needs of residents with 7,000 square feet of enclosed space.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, outdoor spaces are now more in-demand to provide patrons with opportunities to protect their health in a public environment. And the moderate climate allows for year-round use. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the average temperature over the course of a year (San Jose and surrounding cities) is 71.5 degrees--making this outdoor space accessible year-round for residents of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills.

Background

The vision of an outdoor patio space at the library to meet a community need was inspired by a private donation. Taking into consideration the need for more public space, the success of outdoor programming and the design trends of innovative library spaces, the library began working closely with the Orchard Commons Committee and the city to explore a way to highlight the Historic Orchard and create a unique outdoor space at the library.

With City Council approval to repurpose 7,700 sf of city space, the library will work with a professional architecture firm on the design that meets the needs of the community.

Recommendation

Staff recommends, if the City Council approves the proposal, sending the item to the Development Services Director for review and necessary approvals of this project.



June 21, 2023

via email and hand delivered

Los Altos City Council
City of Los Altos
One North San Antonio Road
Los Altos, CA 94022

Re: **Los Altos Main Library Patio Project**
Proposed Safely Enclosed Exterior Space
Applicant: Los Altos Library Endowment,
in partnership with Santa Clara County Library District
City Council Hearing Date: June 27, 2023

Dear Honorable Mayor Meadows and City Council Members:

The Los Altos Library Endowment is excited to share its support with you for the Santa Clara County Library District's (SCCLD) vision for an exterior expansion project to benefit the patrons of our local library. We enthusiastically support funding an outdoor patio that will complement the existing building design while increasing green space and improving natural light. The proposed outdoor patio will also prove to be a very user-friendly space to meet the needs of our community members now, and for the next generation. We seek your support, so that SCCLD may move forward with the proposed project.

The Los Altos Library Endowment (LALE) was established with the desire to support our community to maintain a library that meets the needs of everyone. Since inception in 2001, LALE has funded unique and innovative projects and programs such as the GoGo Biblio mini bookmobile, 3D printers, and the pilot Open Plus access at the Woodland Branch library.

It is well known that the library serves as a constant in the lives of our citizens, with patronage crossing every demographic and age group in the community. We are gratified that SCCLD has received a five-star rating from the Library Journal, and designation as a Star Library for the 15th straight year. SCCLD has recently been recognized as ranking second in the U.S. among comparably sized library districts.

Despite advances in technology, rather than merely stream or download from the comfort of their home, the numbers of individuals and families using the library space has continued to grow to such an extent that our library's walls are bursting....which led SCCLD and LALE to investigate how best to further invest to benefit our populace. Through its recently-completed Strategic Plan 2023-2028, SCCLD has received overwhelming support for the need to maximize accessibility for all community members, be environmentally responsible, reflect the cultures of the population, and provide new spaces for families and teens to learn and create, and for individuals to gather, meet, and work or study independently. The patio project is in complete alignment with the Strategic Plan.

We recognize the importance of respecting the historical landmarks within the boundary of the Civic Center Heritage Orchard. Based upon community input, and working in collaboration with the Los Altos History Museum and its Orchard Commons Committee, SCCLD and LALE have developed a plan that we believe is both feasible and cost-effective while respecting those landmarks as well as creating a new safe, inviting and desirable destination.

1. The Specifics of the Proposed Plan

A review of the architectural renderings demonstrate why we are proud of this proposed enhancement to our library. Having the ability to create a safely enclosed outdoor space with amenities will prove to be a positive physical addition to the library campus. The plan is to create a beautiful area, with two access points: a sliding glass door from the Orchard Room utilizing a new folding NanaWall system and glass doors that open from the Children's Room.

The area once constructed will include shade structures, and provide needed space for programs and seating. Apricot trees will be incorporated into the design elements, and there will be views to the surrounding orchard. The public will have access to the patio at all hours in which the Library is open to the public, which currently is 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. weekdays, and 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Fridays and weekends.

2. Community Outreach

Thanks to the funding that LALE provided, a feasibility study was conducted by SSA Architects. We are grateful that SCCLD will be partnering with the Los Altos History Museum in a collaborative effort to pool resources and talents. As you are aware, the History Museum has extensive experience with their own beautiful, and widely used, outdoor patio in the Civic Center area. At all times SCCLD has stressed LALE's

objective: a quality project that the community will be proud of. The positive feedback has been gratifying.

3. The Financing and the Timing

LALE's Board of Directors has approved a financial commitment to cover the entire estimated construction cost of the Patio Project of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00). That commitment includes a generous Five Hundred Thousand Dollar (\$500,000.00) donation from the Chou family, through a directed grant specified to be provided through LALE. At a time when there is widespread reporting of the difficulty of financing new construction projects given the turmoil in the financial markets, our commitment to provide this financing demonstrates our interest in moving forward as soon as possible, before construction costs increase and additional funding would be required. In short, we believe that the time to act is now.

On a personal note, the Chou family would like the patio project completed during the lifetime of the patriarch and matriarch of the family. Having the ability to see the results of their generous donation will provide great pride to the entire Chou family.

4. The Approval and Implementation

Upon approval by the City Council, SCCLD will be responsible for the final design and building plans. As the public will be the beneficiary of the completed construction, we strongly encourage a rapid approval so as to enable the final building plans to be submitted for approval. The positives of expanded use of the library facilities by patrons far outweigh the negatives of delay (increased costs of construction).

5. The Future Use

The journey to get to this point has already proven to be a positive experience. After all, we have been working together to accomplish something that we could not do alone. The end result will prove to be beneficial for the whole of our community.

Naturally, so that the community learns about the expansion to the facility, we intend to promote the patio project. Information and depictions will be included in all of our marketing materials and the various forms in which we engage the public.

6. Conclusion

The Library Commission as well as Friends of the Los Altos Library have each passed unanimous motions in support of the patio project, establishing that the project is a strong priority that should move forward. In anticipation of approval, SCCLD has secured a memorandum of understanding with the History Museum.

Both the SCCLD and the Los Altos Library Endowment wish to acknowledge your dedication of time and attention to the library's future. We look forward to working toward collectively implementing approval of the patio project in order to improve and enhance the library as part of a continued commitment to meet our community's long-term needs. We believe that the time is now!

Very truly yours,



Cindy Hill, on behalf of the LALE Board of Directors
President, Los Altos Library Endowment

Donation for Los Altos Library outdoor seating area

Agenda Item # 17.

arlen chou <[REDACTED]>

Wed 6/14/2023 3:15 PM

To: Rose Baiza <RBaiza@sccl.org>; Jennifer Weeks <JWeeks@sccl.org>; lenelle.smith <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]>; cindy.hill@lalendow.org>

To the Santa Clara County Library District and the Los Altos Library Endowment,

The City of Los Altos has been our family home for nearly 50 years. We are grateful for the support and opportunities this community has shown our family. Because of this town, we have been able to thrive in the Bay Area and would like to make an effort to give back to this wonderful community. We hope that the Santa Clara Library District and the Los Altos Library Endowment will accept our donation of \$500,000 to build an outdoor seating area at the Los Altos Library. It is our wish, that our contribution will give support and open opportunities to future families and the children of Los Altos.

Thank you,

Hsun and Aiko Chou



Virus-free www.avast.com



51 S. San Antonio | Los Altos CA 94022

MEMORANDUM

May 15, 2023

FROM: Dr. Elisabeth Ward
Director, Los Altos History Museum

RE: Library Patio Project

This memorandum documents the intent of Los Altos History Museum, through its Orchard Commons Committee, to collaborate with the Los Altos Library on the design of an outdoor reading room. We understand and appreciate the desire to provide access into the Children’s Reading Room through a corridor that would be constructed within the boundary of the Historical Landmark of the Civic Center Heritage Orchard, as designated in Resolution 91-31 (see attachment).

The City of Los Altos is responsible for maintaining the quality of City Historical Landmarks, as an irreplaceable historical asset of benefit to all members of the community. This responsibility includes timely exchange of information about all activities that might affect expansion of the footprint of existing buildings or landscaping features that might extend into the landmark boundaries.

Maintaining the quality of this City Historical Landmark entails collaboration to ensure that any alterations are constructed with a soft footprint that will enhance outreach programs without reducing the capacity of the orchard to sustain the original number of trees. If construction operations alter the quality or quantity of tree sites in the orchard, it is our understanding that the damage will be offset by appropriate mitigation actions agreed upon through open communication.

The goal of the [Orchard Commons Committee](#) of the Los Altos History Museum is to maintain, restore and renovate the Civic Center Heritage Orchard in a manner that provides an appealing working landscape and to facilitate outreach programs that enhance a sense of place and civic pride. This goal is in alignment with the vision of the Museum to provide inclusive multi-generational and multi-cultural programming and with the City’s [Climate Action and Adaptation Plan](#).

Cc: Rose Baiza, Community Librarian, Los Altos Library
Jennifer Weeks, County Librarian
Gabriel Engeland, City Manager, City of Los Altos
Teresa Morris, Chair, Parks & Recreation Commission
Larry Lang, Chair, Historical Commission
Bruno Delagneau, Chair, Environmental Commission

Attachment: Resolution 91-31

RESOLUTION NO. 91- 31

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS
MODIFYING AN APRICOT ORCHARD AS A HISTORICAL LANDMARK

WHEREAS, by virtue of its adoption of Ordinance No. 78-16 and 90-225, the City Council of the City of Los Altos did establish a procedure for the designation and preservation of historical landmarks within the City of Los Altos; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of its adoption of Resolution 81-23, the City Council of the City of Los Altos did designate a portion of APN 170-42-029 known as the Civic Center Apricot Orchard a historical landmark; and

WHEREAS, by designation of this property as a historical landmark it is subject to the terms and conditions outlined in Ordinance 90-225; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with that Ordinance Section 2-8.404, the Historical Commission has reviewed and recommends modifying the limits of the Civic Center Apricot Orchard as shown on Exhibit A, as located on APN Nos. 170-42-029 and 170-43-001; and

WHEREAS, the City Council concurs with the recommendation of the Historical Commission in this regard;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Los Altos does hereby determine that the subject property is designated as a historical landmark and is subject to the terms and conditions outlined in Ordinance 90-225;

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution duly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Los Altos on the 8th day of October, 1991, by the following roll call vote:

* * * * *

AYES: Mayor Spangler, Councilmembers Bruno, Laliotis, Lave, & Reeder
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

SR Spangler

Mayor

Carol Schary

City Clerk

*called
Leave to get
a copy of
this sect.*

Los Altos History Museum
51 S. San Antonio Rd.
Los Altos, CA 94022-2319



**1 North San Antonio Road
Los Altos, California 94022-3087**

6/20/23

Los Altos City Council
1 North San Antonio Road
Los Altos CA 94022

Mayor Meadows and Councilmembers,

At the regular meeting of June 2, 2023, the Los Altos Library Commission unanimously approved a motion to support the Los Altos Library patio project. The motion read, “The Library Commission supports the concept of the Main Library Patio Project as represented in the 6/1/2023 Library Commission Meeting materials.”

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Price
Recreation Supervisor
Library Commission Liaison



Friends of the Library of Los Altos & Community, Inc.
Box 212
Los Altos, CA 94023-0212

June 14, 2023

Dear members of Los Altos City Council,

The Friends of the Library of Los Altos is a support group for the library and we try to not make library policy. However, we have been asked to comment on the proposal from the library commission for a patio outside of the community room. We enthusiastically support the project.

We spend a lot of time in the library and we see many of the building's shortcomings. This project not only provides an outdoor patio but is a clever way to allow for more children's programs, an expanded group meeting space, and an additional gathering space especially during highly trafficked times such as after school and weekends. While this project does not solve all the shortcomings of the building, it is a great improvement that can be done with little disruption to the current space. We are fully behind the project.

Board of Directors of the Friends of the Library of Los Altos

Elayne Dauber, President

Proposed Library Patio

CONCEPT ONLY

Exact size and design TBD with professionals.



Proposed Library Patio

CONCEPT ONLY

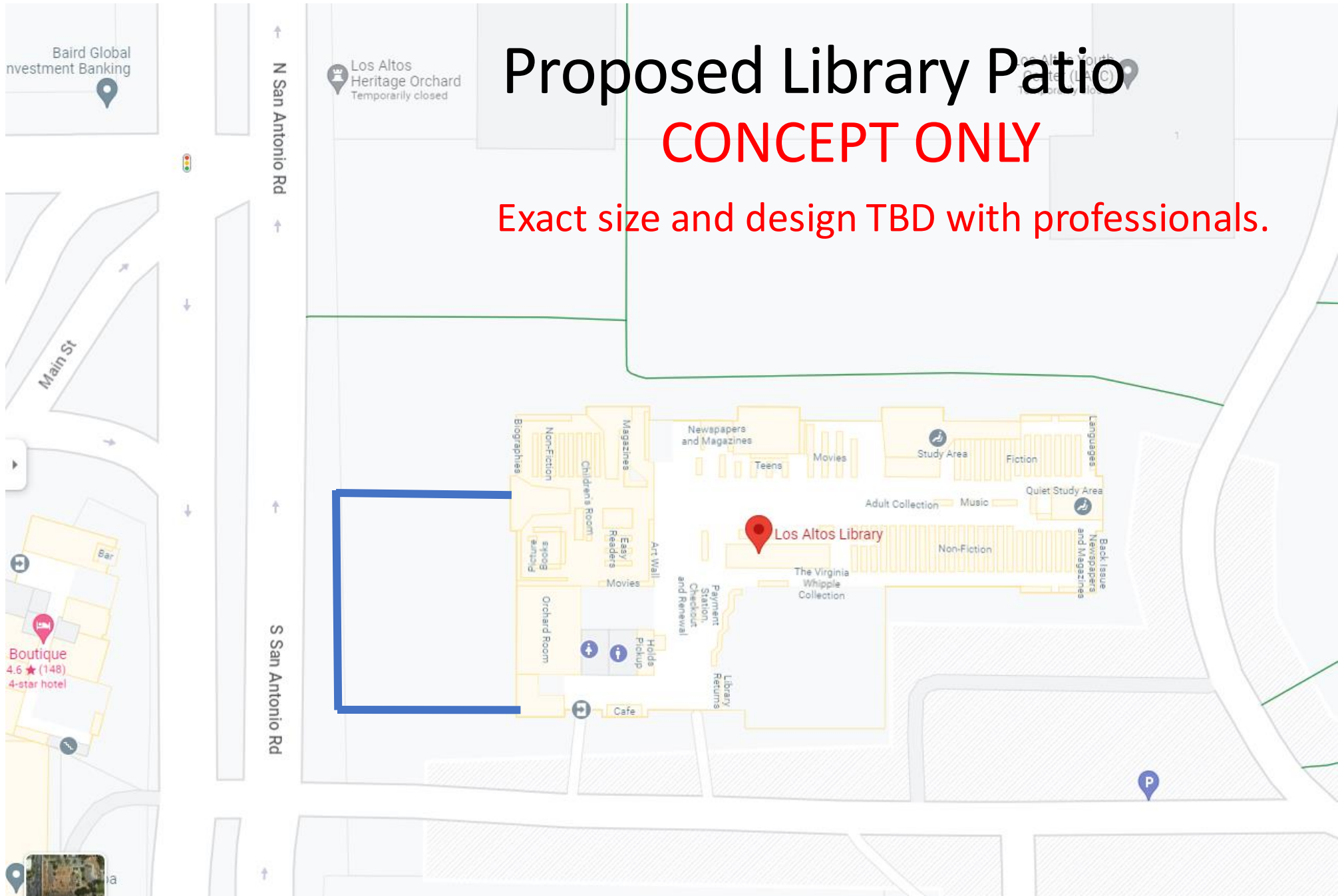
Exact size and design TBD with professionals.

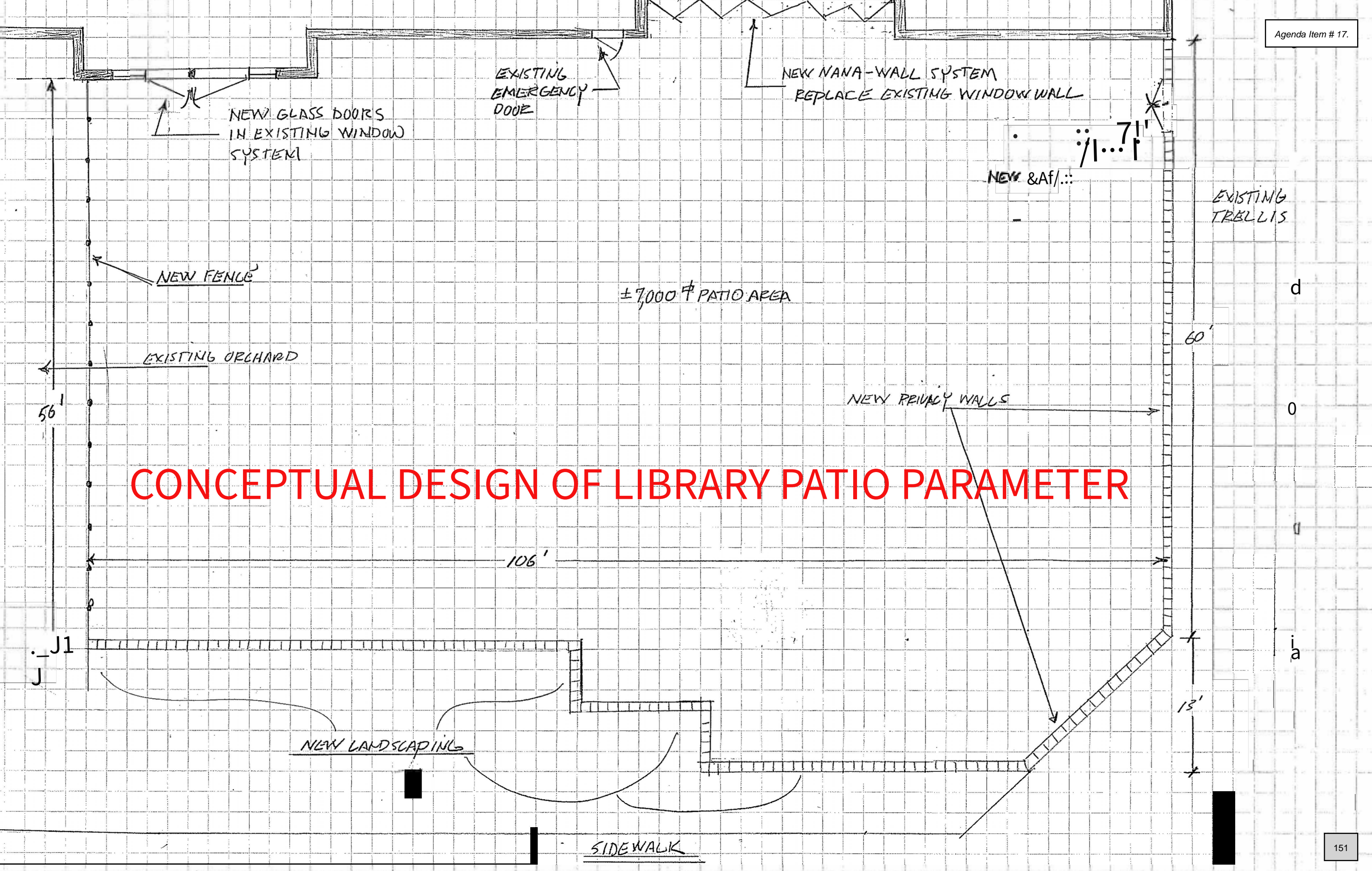


Proposed Library Patio

CONCEPT ONLY

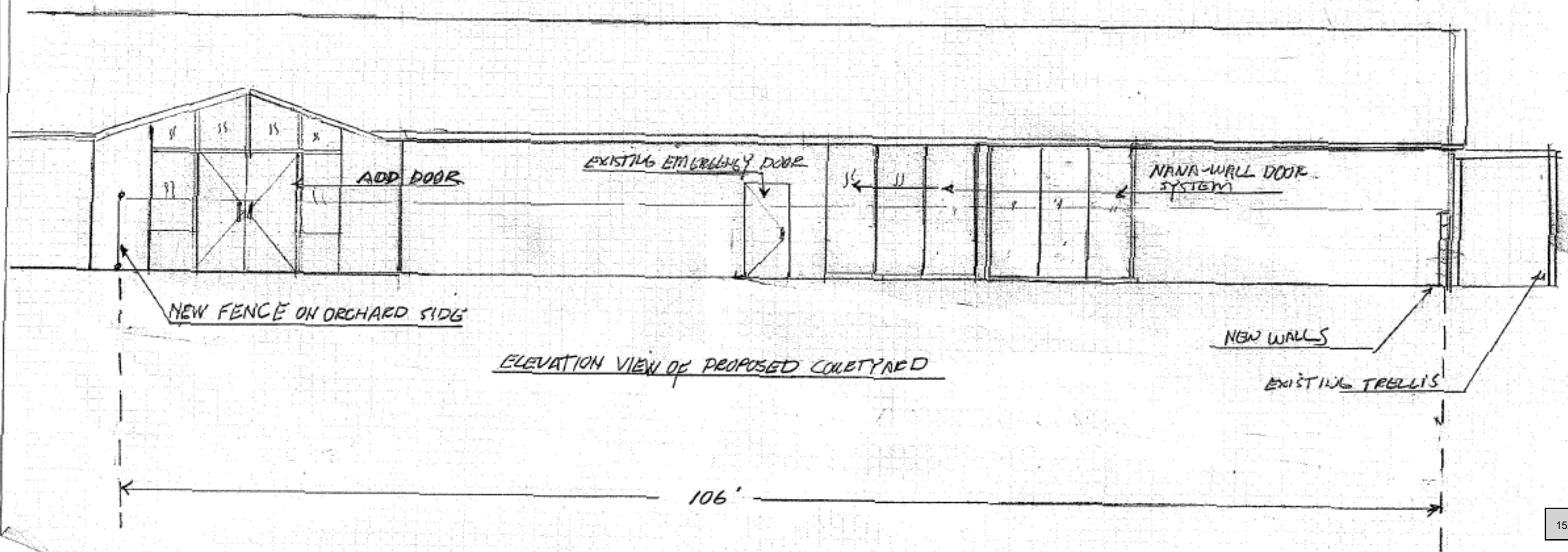
Exact size and design TBD with professionals.



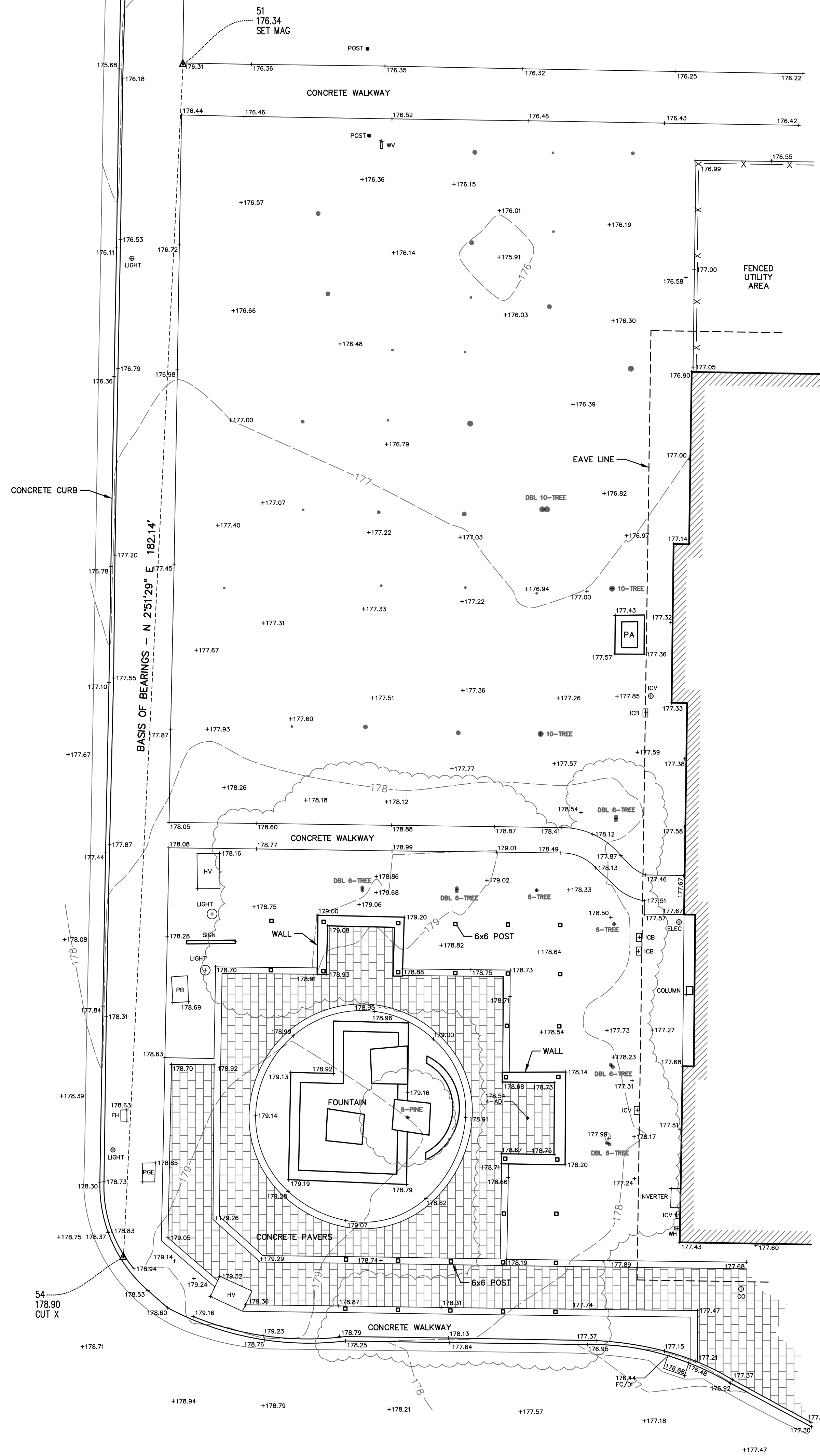


CONCEPTUAL DESIGN OF LIBRARY PATIO PARAMETER

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN OF LIBRARY PATIO PARAMETER



S. SAN ANTONIO ROAD



BASIS OF BEARINGS

BEARINGS FOR THIS SURVEY ARE BASED ON A REALTIME KINEMATIC (RTK) GPS TIE TO CONTROL POINTS SET AS A PART OF THIS SURVEY AS SHOWN HEREON

NORTH 2°51'29" EAST

BASIS OF ELEVATIONS

ELEVATIONS FOR THIS SURVEY ARE BASED ON THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS BENCHMARK #15, LOCATED ON THE TOP OF CURB ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF SAN ANTONIO AVENUE AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH EDITH AVENUE.

BENCHMARK ELEVATION = 175.17' (NAVD88)

UTILITY NOTE

UTILITY LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE. UTILITIES SHOWN ON THIS MAP WERE DETERMINED FROM SURFACE EVIDENCE OF UNDERGROUND LOCATIONS, DURING A SURVEY BY ALPHA LAND SURVEYS IN MAY 2023.

LEGEND

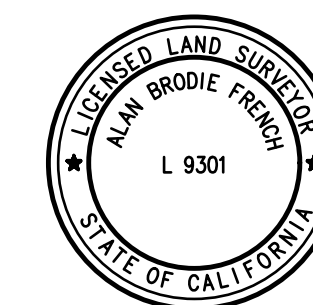
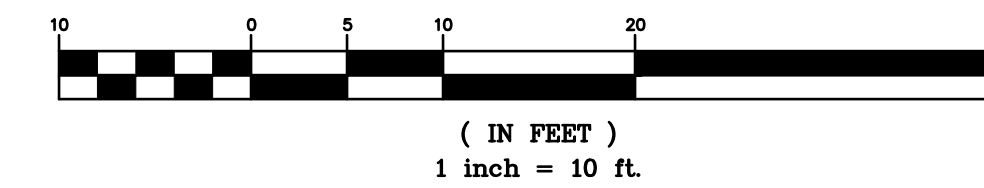
- CONTOUR INTERVAL, MAJOR
- - - CONTOUR INTERVAL, MINOR
- ~ ~ ~ DRIP LINE
- X - X - X - FENCE LINE
- - - TIE LINE
- △ RANDOM CONTROL POINT
- TREE, AS NOTED
- +99.99 SPOT ELEVATION

CONTOUR INTERVAL = 1 FOOT
DIMENSIONS ARE SHOWN IN FEET AND DECIMALS THEREOF

ABBREVIATIONS

- | | |
|-----|--------------------------|
| AD | AREA DRAIN |
| CO | CLEANOUT |
| DBL | DOUBLE |
| DOC | DOCUMENT |
| EM | ELECTRIC METER |
| FH | FIRE HYDRANT |
| GM | GAS METER |
| HB | HOSE BIB |
| HV | HIGH VOLTAGE |
| ICV | IRRIGATION CONTROL VALVE |
| JP | UTILITY POLE |
| PA | PLANTER |
| PB | PACIFIC BELL |
| PGE | PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC |
| SD | STORM DRAIN |
| SS | SANITARY SEWER |
| WM | WATER METER |
| WH | WHARF HYDRANT |
| WV | WATER VALVE |

GRAPHIC SCALE



Alan Brodie French

ALPHA LAND SURVEYS, INC.			
4444 SCOTTS VALLEY DR. #7 SCOTTS VALLEY, CA 95066 (831) 438-4453	P.O. BOX 1146 MORGAN HILL, CA 95038 (831) 438-4453	TOPOGRAPHIC MAP LOS ALTOS LIBRARY 13 S. SAN ANTONIO ROAD LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA	SHEET 1 OF ONE
1" = 10'	DATE: 5/25/2023	JOB#: 2023-105	



PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

The following is public correspondence received by the City Clerk’s Office after the posting of the original agenda. Individual contact information has been redacted for privacy. This may *not* be a comprehensive collection of the public correspondence, but staff makes its best effort to include all correspondence received to date.

To send correspondence to the City Council, on matters listed on the agenda please email PublicComment@losaltosca.gov

From: [Manisha Arora](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Support for library patio expansion
Date: Wednesday, June 21, 2023 4:45:09 PM

Hi, I understand that this item is on the agenda for city council meeting on June 29. I support this project. I live at 1089 Eastwood Ct, Los Altos, CA 94024.

Regards,
Manisha