



51 South San Antonio Road  
Los Altos, California 94022  
www.LosAltosHistory.org  
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*Los Altos History Museum gathers and presents compelling stories and artifacts that bridge the past and the present by fostering the creative energy of staff and volunteers to challenge established narratives and produce engaging educational programs and exhibits for the community.*

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Los Altos History Museum’s legal name is the Association of the Los Altos Historical Museum; tax i.d. number 94-2542813. We are a 501(c)(3) organization and your gifts are tax deductible.

February 6, 2025

City of Los Altos Historical and Planning Commissions  
1 N. San Antonio Rd.  
Los Altos, CA 94022

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing with regards to Item 2, “Request for a Historical Alteration Permit and Design Review for a new library courtyard,” on the agenda for the joint meeting of the Historical Commission and Planning Commission on Thursday, February 6.

The Los Altos History Museum supports the library’s efforts to enhance its outdoor space and recognizes the potential benefits of a new courtyard for the Civic Center community.

The Museum is also the steward of the Los Altos Heritage Orchard under contract with the City (July 2023–June 2026). To that end, I urge you to seriously consider:

1. Preserving the irrigation system as a key part of the orchard’s historical grid.
2. Protecting a row of tree replacement sites along the walkway to the Smith House.
3. Mitigating spatial changes to maintain continuity of the grid between the orchard’s eastern and western sections.

You may refer to Public Comment 26 submitted by Jane M. Packard, PhD, for further details on these three points.

This project and preservation of the historical integrity of the orchard can coexist with thoughtful planning. I appreciate your efforts to balance community improvement with historical stewardship.

Sincerely,

Anna Toledano, PhD  
Executive Director