

American Society of Civil Engineers
Los Angeles Section
2009 Awards

Outstanding Architectural Engineering Project, Honorable Mention
Santa Maria Public Library
City of Santa Maria

The project consisted of a 59,850 square foot, two-story steel framed structure with associated site improvements and landscaping. The previous phases of the project included demolition of several buildings on-site, the relocation and remodeling of a historically important building, and construction of a multi-level parking structure. The costs for this phase of the project were \$24.5 million. The overall cost for all phases of the project was \$32.0 million. The project was completed on-time and within the approved budget.



The construction of the new library more than doubled the capacity of the existing library in Santa Maria. The site of the new building contained a historically significant building (Long House), as well as typical “strip mall” commercial buildings. In order to provide room for the library and associated parking structure, the Long House was moved from the site to a City owned location two blocks away. The building interior was then remodeled. The commercial buildings were demolished and the site was cleared to provide room for the library and associated parking structure

This project was designed and constructed in conjunction with the Pacific Gas & Electric Savings by Design program. Portions of the project, including the HVAC system, controls, and lighting are designed to minimize the power consumption of the new building. Based on the energy saving products used in the library, PG&E provided a cash payment of \$36,000 as a rebate for the savings.

The measure of success for this project is not that it was designed to complement the downtown, not that the City was able to build the new facility and still preserve the Long House, and not that the contractor completed construction on-time and within budget. The measure of success for this project lies in the fact the community has taken ownership of the facility. There are people waiting each morning for the library to open and day-or-night the facilities are being used by groups of kids sitting under the Enchanted Forest tree, groups of teenagers studying in private rooms, civic groups using the meeting rooms, and others checking out books, movies, and periodicals. This project not only serves the community, it provides a source of enrichment for Santa Maria.