

# TEMPLETON AREA ADVISORY GROUP (TAAG)

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

**NOT YET APPROVED by TAAG Board**

**Thursday, October 17, 2024, 6:30 PM**

Templeton Community Service District  
Board Room  
206 Fifth Street, Templeton California 93465

[Find us on Facebook](#)

Web Site: [TAAGinfo.org](http://TAAGinfo.org)

## Mission Statement

TAAG solicits community input on proposed development in the Templeton, Adelaida, and El Pomar-Estrella area and advises County officials on land use plans and ordinances. TAAG uses established County standards, the Templeton Community Plan, and the Templeton Community Design Plan as guidelines for its recommendations. After a public review, TAAG reports its recommendations to County officials. TAAG has no oversight authority over the Land Use Permit Application process.

## 2024-2025 TAAG BOARD MEMBERS

Jennifer Jones, Delegate/Chair  
Murray Powell, Delegate/Vice-Chair/Treasurer  
Jerry Jones, Delegate  
Scott Silveira, Delegate  
David Leader, Delegate  
Jason Tesarz, Delegate  
Brad Goodman, Delegate  
Edward Bik, 1st Alternate Delegate  
2nd Alternate Delegate, position vacant

Members of the public signing in at the meeting:

Kelly Reed Daulton  
Connemara Woodruff  
Dawn Carpenter

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

JENNIFER JONES called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

## 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## 3. ROLL CALL

Jennifer Jones	present
Murray Powell	present
Jerry Jones	present
Scott Silveira	not present
David Leader	present
Jason Tesarz	present
Brad Goodman	not present
Edward Bik	present, 1st alternate, voting tonight

## 4. AGENCY REPORTS AND UPDATES

### 4.1. Sheriff's Office

Cmdr MICHAEL MANUELE, Sheriff's North Station, reported on Sept 2024.

The station received 1,682 calls for service, as compared to 1,513 for the same period in 2023, an increase of 11%. In Templeton there were 358 calls, as compared to 340 in 2023, an increase of 5%. The calls resulted in 247 reports, as compared to 229 last year, an 8% increase, while Templeton had 52 reports, a drop of 27%.

Commentary on the types of calls pointed to domestic issues, falling in the categories of assault and battery, disturbance and trespassing. There were a few incidents of theft and vandalism, but no scams this month.

One resident reported someone filming their house; upon investigation, it appeared the subject was live-streaming on their phone while on a walk.

JASON TESARZ asked why Templeton figures might have gone down.

Cmdr MANUELE: COVID threw things off, since then there have been ups and downs, with no pattern I can see.

### 4.2. California Highway Patrol

Lt CHANDLER STEWART will be retiring on November 12, after 30 years with the CHP. He will be succeeded as commander of Templeton CHP by Lt. Darren Gennuso, who was introduced at the meeting.

In August/September of 2024, over the whole jurisdiction, CHP investigated 136 crashes, down slightly from 2023. In Templeton there were 33 crashes (20 on freeway, 13 on county roads), up slightly from 2023. 21 involved only property damage (15 on freeway, 6 on county roads); 12 involved bodily injury (5 on freeway, 7 on county roads). None were fatal. 4 involved DUI (driving under the influence). Over the whole jurisdiction, there were 3 fatal crashes, and 22 accidents involving DUI.

In the entire jurisdiction there were 2,086 enforcement contacts, 270 in Templeton. Most of these were on the freeway. 110 citations were issued on the freeway, 23 on county roads. None were written in Templeton for speeds over 100 mph (although there were 21 in the entire jurisdiction). There were 14 DUI arrests (9 on the freeway, 5 on county roads; 53 in the wider area).

The CHP also reported 353 stops for motorist services.

JENNIFER JONES asked how patrolling around the schools was going, now that school is back in session.

Cmdr. MANUELE: It's hard on that one resource officer. He can't be everywhere at once.

STEWART: There have been complaints about a white pickup truck.

PUBLIC: What is the white pickup doing?

STEWART: It has been reported for speed and erratic driving, it seems especially on Thursdays and Fridays. Additional information from the public would be useful.

(General agreement in the room that there are a great many white pick-up trucks in Templeton.)

DAVID LEADER: Can law enforcement impound a car?

STEWART: In some situations, yes, for road racing, for example, or if there have been multiple stops, but not routinely. Speed limits have gone up in the north end of the county.

JERRY JONES: Are there rules about tinted glass, isn't that scary for officers?

STEWART: Rules have become more liberal.

Lt. DARREN GENNUSO: There have been no changes in those laws.

STEWART: There are more reasons accepted for allowing tinted windows – if a car comes from Texas, for example, as Texas allows full tinting.

#### 4.3. Supervisorial District One: John Peschong

No report.

#### 4.4. Supervisorial District Five: Debbie Arnold

No report.

#### 4.5. County Planning Department

ERIC TOLLE, dept of planning and building: No additions to what is on agenda.

The Dirk Winter Hotel has submitted a new project description. It addresses comments and agency responses. It was sent to TAAG today, re-referred because there are substantial changes. It is still on information hold.

Eden's Dream was one of the early cannabis projects, has been dormant for two years. The MND (Mitigated Negative Declaration) is up for public review.

QUESTION from President of Templeton Ranch (??) Homeowners Association: What is the timeline for the Carroll mixed-use project on Main St?

MURRAY POWELL: There is a Monday, Nov 4 meeting at subdivision review board. Project manager Cheryl Ku at County Planning Dept. will know more.

#### 4.6. Templeton Community Services District

DEBRA LOGAN, TCSD board member.

There is a ballot box for the general election in the district office, open weekdays 8-5 (closed 12-1 for lunch).

At the October 1 meeting, Chelsea Tirone was selected to fill the third seat on the board. Three seats were open at last report to TAAG. TCSD would have needed 4 candidates to go to the ballot; Fardanesh and Logan were up for re-election, both will be appointed, Chelsea Tirone the third. The County Board of Supervisors will be asked to approve the appointments.

There will be a 1% increase in impact fees (on construction; fees paid by developers).

The Templeton Community Library Association (a 501c3 non-profit) has asked TCSD to take over the library. Among the issues is the question of what types of organizations may apply for grants. Without funding, TCSD cannot consider taking over the library. The library has asked the county to allocate some of the local property taxes to fund the library, but that has not been approved. TSCD has advised the library to continue to seek funds

from the county (the county does fund other libraries), but it is frankly unlikely.

The water code was amended. When water units become available, the policy is to contact property owners on the list and give them 10 days to respond. However, 10 days may not be enough, especially with mail going to post office boxes. Beginning December 5, applicants for water units must provide a physical address for mail delivery, and the response time has been extended to 30 days.

DAVID LEADER: How is TCSD finding more water units?

LOGAN: There is a buffer policy in place. TCSD looks at usage, and at what is available, and keeps 25% of water units unassigned. Some properties have unconnected water units. There is more water available to the district because of increased capacity at Templeton's wastewater treatment plant. Instead of sending water to Paso, the district now treats water and returns it to the Salinas River.

MURRAY POWELL: Why is Templeton's library not supported? How are other libraries in the county funded?

JASON TESARZ: Templeton has the only private library in the area.

LOGAN: Templeton's library is currently funded through donations. TCSD does not have the resources nor the staff for that project. It is up to the library staff to pursue funding. It might be necessary to lobby not just the district's supervisors, but all five county supervisors. TCSD's Jeff Britz will support lobbying efforts, but the Templeton Community Library Association must take the lead.

Templeton property taxes do support county libraries. There is a county library agency and a Director of Libraries, Christopher Barnickel. A number of libraries receive county funding; some may also be supported by their city budgets.

The first Templeton library was opened in 1913 by the Women's Club. California Proposition 13 (1978) closed all libraries in the county. They were eventually reopened, all but Templeton. The current Templeton library committee met with District 1 supervisor John Peschong, and were led to believe they would get funding for construction in a 50/50 split. When they had raised private money and were told there were no county funds, they moved ahead with a modular building instead. They have been tenacious in trying to secure money. Supervisor Peschong is proud to announce that the county has balanced its budget, but there is no money for the Templeton Library.

This issue is not unique to the library. Templeton tried for years to get money for the fire dept. Finally voters passed a local ballot measure (Templeton residents will see the line item listed on their property tax statement), and, together with federal funding secured by Congressman Jimmy Panetta, were able to order a new fire truck; it would not have got done otherwise.

PUBLIC: Why would the county librarian not support the Templeton library?

LOGAN: Funding. This was a privately built library, and now the library is asking the county to take it on. But like TCSD – like any agency – it needs to have money to support a project.

DAVID LEADER: How much money are we talking about?

LOGAN: We'll send you info on the library.

*(See appended documents with library information and history.)*

#### 4.7. Templeton Unified School District

no report.

### **5. UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF PENDING TEMPLETON AREA LAND USE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPLICATIONS.**

The SLO County Planning Department refers proposed land use development projects applications to TAAG for review and submission of TAAG recommendations to the County Board Supervisors, the Planning Commission and other County agencies and departments. The following are the current pending projects under review by TAAG that are currently on County Planning Department "Information Holds" requiring additional information to be submitted by project applicants to County Planning. The TAAG Board will be conducting future publicly noticed reviews of these projects as additional information becomes available. Details of the following projects can be found on the TAAG website link "[Project Applications | Templeton Area Advisory Group \(taaginfo.org\)](https://www.taaginfo.org)"

- "Edens Dream" Revised Indoor Cannabis Project. Project No. DRC 2018-00183. Located at 4339 South El Pomar Road, Templeton CA 93465. APN 034-321-003. See additional comments in New Business Section 8.2 below.
- AU Energy Gas Station - Project No. N-DRC2024-00022. Proposed Gas Station located on Vineyard Drive and Highway 1010.

No update. Project on information hold.

- Dirk Winters Templeton Hotel -Project No. N-DRC2024-00024. Propose 60 room hotel complex located on North Main Street Templeton.

This project has submitted a redesign.

DAVID LEADER: What is the water situation?

DEBRA LOGAN, TCSD: Allocated water units are insufficient.

- Carrol Mixed Use Commercial – Residential Project No. N-DRC2024-00033. Project is located on North Main Street Templeton.

This project is scheduled for a hearing.

- Grey Wolf Winery – Project No. N-DRC2022-00048.

No update.

- TVJ - MGE – Project No. N-SUB2024-00024. The project site is located at 4210 Ramada Drive, between Ramada Drive and the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, approximately 600 feet north of North Main Street, in the community of Templeton.

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

CHARLES CHALEKSON returned to a topic TAAG has discussed at previous meetings: the fraught issue of the easement on White Oak, where a property owner has placed physical barriers to prevent use of the road and harassed passers-by.

JENNIFER: Your e-mail has been shared with the board (and is appended to the minutes below).

DAVID LEADER: There will be a hearing before a judge on January 9, 2025. We are hoping for a temporary injunction, the property owner will have to remove tree trunks, signs, etc.

CHALEKSON: There has been a similar issue on Malibu beaches, where residents try to restrict access to public beaches. There has to be community support.

POWELL: There is a history to this issue: The county denied a request to vacate and referred to TAAG. The TAAG board looked at it extensively and consulted Cmdr. Manuele. The conflict is a civil matter. DAVID LEADER is party to a law suit over this issue.

LEADER: We asked Cal Fire, Public Works, Code Enforcement . . . no agency would touch it. A court order is needed to establish it's a public easement. The road has been used for a century. If we get a temporary injunction, we can clear the road. We could do it today, but my lawyer told me not to, to wait for an injunction.

CHALEKSON: I want to enter it in the public record that this is a dangerous situation. I was hurt by barbed wire. There should be community awareness and support, or it can happen elsewhere.

*(See appended October 14, 2024 letter to TAAG from Dr. Charles Chalekson.)*

## 7. CONSENT AGENDA

### 6.1 Approval of Minutes from September 19, 2024 TAAG Board meeting

Minutes were approved by voice vote.

### 6.2 Approval of Treasurer's October 17, 2024 Report

The treasurer's report was delivered verbally. Account balance is \$373, in a new account opened as of last week. Funds were transferred to Umpqua Bank. the next step is to apply to County Supervisors for TAAG stipend.

Motion to approve verbal treasurer's report carried by voice vote.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

### 8.1 Introduction and update by the Central Coast Heritage Tree Foundation.

Presentation will include a discussion of why branches fall and oak tree maintenance to reduce branch failure and updates on area oak tree planting and the Templeton area heritage tree inventory with a new app from Cal Poly.

KELLY REED DAULTON, in discussing the programs of this 100% volunteer organization, said that "Trees are our area's oldest residents, but they get the least

support” and don’t get the regular maintenance they need. She urged residents to join the programs outlined on the web site, such as Citizen Scientist and Feed a Tree.

<https://centralcoastheritagetreefoundation.org/>

There has been a great deal of branch failure lately. The copious rains in the last two years have put weight on tree limbs.

The organization promotes “succession plantings,” the planting of new trees of the same varieties as existing old trees, to ensure that there is a continuing population. : Property owners tend to choose live oaks, because they are faster growing, but the real natives in this area are other types. Acorns and seedlings are available free of charge. Planting, however, is the easy part. Seedlings need a deep watering once a week, and few people have the commitment to maintain the plantings.

The organization has funds to buy succession oaks to plant, but it needs volunteers to water, especially in the summertime, an especially in places (like down by the railroad tracks) where water needs to be carried. It’s a good volunteer activity for groups like boy scouts.

*(See appended documents from Central Coast Heritage Tree Foundation.)*

## **8.2 Pending Templeton area indoor Cannabis Cultivation and Cannabis Processing Land Use Application Project known as “Eden’s Dream”. County Project No DRC2018-00183. APN 034-321-007**

This proposed Cannabis project is a request by Eden’s Dreams LLC for a SLO County Minor Use Permit to conduct Indoor Cannabis Cultivation and Processing activities. SLO County Project No. (DRC2018-00183). The project would be located at 4337 - 4339 South El Pomar Road Templeton. Approximately 2.8 miles east of the city of Atascadero. The project consists of the demolition of an existing 14,000-sq.ft arena structure and the 2 phased construction of a 35,500 sq.ft. greenhouse facility for indoor cannabis and indoor cannabis immature nursery cultivation, the construction of a 980 sq.ft. and a 9,000 sq.ft metal barn type structures for cannabis product processing activities, cannabis storage, and office uses. The project also includes other various site improvements, including installation of water tanks, portable restrooms, dumpsters, and a compost area. Currently this project is on hold pending an existing 30 day public comment period that expires on November 4, 2024 regarding the project’s environmental study and SLO County’s draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) document required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) TAAG will conduct a detailed review of this project once the project’s final proposed MND is issued by the County on or after November 4, 2024.

MURRAY POWELL, chair of Cannabis Project Review Committee, will work on comments, for probable discussion before TAAG in November. TAAG spent a lot of time considering this project in an earlier iteration. The outdoor grow, which TAAG considered a problem, is gone from the project. There was a lot of neighborhood opposition. The MND (Mitigated Negative Declaration) mentions that an adjacent project (also cannabis) has been withdrawn.

JASON TESARZ: How does this version compare to the older project?

POWELL: It is smaller.

DAVID LEADER: The difference is that an outdoor grow smells stronger?

POWELL: An indoor grow is technically filtered.

ERIC TOLLE, County Planning Dept: Odor mitigation is required.

PUBLIC COMMENT: I’ve heard complaints from people whose wells go dry next to vineyards. Doesn’t cannabis also use a lot of water?

TOLLE: There is a requirement to offset water demands. Water and odor are the most monitored when it comes to cannabis.

DAVID LEADER: Why don't they check water use at wineries?

TOLLE: Good question. Wineries can pull as much water as they want.

TESARZ: Vineyards have been around much longer.

## 9. OLD BUSINESS

### **9.1 Notification of SLO County Board of Supervisors September 24, 2024 approval of the proposed Mittry 22 Lot Housing project Rezoning and Land Use application. This proposed project is to be located at 301 North Main Street Templeton. County Planning Project Number N-SUB-2023-00013. APN 040-201-033.**

The SLO County Board of Supervisors approved the zoning change of this 10.2 acre project site from Commercial Retail to Single Family Residential and approved the related Land Use application to develop 22 essentially ¼ acre each housing lots on this site. The project is located on North Main Street Templeton adjacent to the Templeton County Sheriff's facility that is currently undergoing expansion and construction of a new County Emergency Communication Facility. TAAG submitted several recommendations to the SLO County Board of Supervisors requesting that this project be DENIED. The Supervisors voted to approve this project on a 4 – 1 vote on September 24, 2024. Supervisor Bruce Gibson voted to deny the project. Copies of TAAG's detailed recommendations to DENY this project can be found on the TAAG website.

## 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM TAAG COMMITTEES

### 10.1 Project Review Committee

### 10.2 Cannabis Project Review Committee

The committee may meet over the new project (Item 8.2 above).

### 10.3 Community Outreach and Public Relations Committee

### 10.4 Traffic Circulation Committee -

Note – The TAAG Traffic Committee will be conducting a publicly noticed October 23, 2024 Committee meeting to review issues related to Templeton area traffic circulation concerns. The public is encouraged to attend.

DAVID LEADER: Committee members attended SLOCOG (San Luis Obispo Council of Governments) forum. The purpose is to reduce traffic fatalities ideally to zero. It was a 3-hour meeting with perhaps 100 people from government agencies. We met some people from Public Works – good for us to know.

EDWARD BIK: There is grant money available. A consulting firm has been working for years on traffic safety.

LEADER: The October 23 meeting will consider traffic issues in Templeton and possible solutions. Among the areas of concern are the Rossi/Vineyard intersection, the Vineyard Drive corridor, sidewalks, and the Main St/101 intersection. A representative from Public Works plans to be there.

### 10.5 Bylaws Special Committee



10.6 Water/Toad Creek Committee

10.7 Elections Committee

TAAG will call for board candidates in November. Current board members who will run for re-election must declare in December. One alternate position is open now; TAAG can appoint a member until election.

A Call for Candidates will be posted to the web site.

JASON TESARZ: The board should craft a message outlining the reasons to join TAAG.

TESARZ: If board alternates wish to remain alternate, do they have to run?

ANSWER: Yes, all board members stand for election, the seven receiving the most votes are seated as delegates, the next two are alternates.

**11. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM DELEGATES** (on items not on the agenda)

none.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

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*Meeting minutes submitted by Sonja Bolle.*

Documents attached to the minutes:

October 14, 2024 letter from Dr. Charles Chalekson to TAAG (1 page).

Information and history on Templeton Library and the Templeton Community Library Association (17 pages).

Informational flyers from Central Coast Heritage Tree Foundation (5 pages).

## LETTER REGARDING EASEMENT ISSUE ON WHITE OAK:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Charles Chalekson** <[drc@cplasticsurgery.com](mailto:drc@cplasticsurgery.com)>

Date: Mon, Oct 14, 2024 at 4:46 PM

Subject: Re: TAAG October 17, 2024 Agenda

To: Templeton AAG <[templetonaag@gmail.com](mailto:templetonaag@gmail.com)>

Hello. I am following up regarding continuing issues to access along easement trails on White Oak. This was previously discussed in front of TAAG earlier this year when an issue regarding an easement change was requested. This trail has been used by citizens [including myself] for decades and accepted by the county and in property deeds.

There are two property owners that continue to place illegal gates, barriers, barbed wire, tree frunks, manufactured ravines and berms to prevent citizens from using these trails that have been acknowledged as being accessible by the county. These barriers are extremely dangerous and create risk to injury and are illegal. Additionally, I have been accosted by one of the land owners saying I have no right to be on the trail. When I was at the previous TAAG meeting where many stood and spoke up for the access, TAAG had stated that they would look at getting into having this trail appropriately corrected and cleared. Since that time, additional obstructions have been placed. There are also unauthorized signs that have been placed that attempt to obfuscate citizens and let users believe they are not allowed access to the trail.

Can TAAG please take care of this issue.

Thanks

Dr. Charles Chalekson

## **Chris Barnickel, SLO County Library Director**

The San Luis Obispo County Library system receives revenue from the county and serves most of the area. This system was established in 1919 and operates under the authority of the County Board of Supervisors. It provides library services to residents in 6 out of 7 incorporated cities and the unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo County, covering a service area of over 3,000 square miles:

### North County Region:

- Atascadero
- Cambria
- Creston
- San Miguel
- Shandon

### Central Region:

- San Luis Obispo
- Cayucos
- Los Osos
- Morro Bay

### South County Region:

- Arroyo Grande
- Nipomo
- Oceano
- Shell Beach

These libraries are part of the county system and therefore receive funding through the county's revenue streams.

## **TEMPLETON COMMUNITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (TCLA)**

TCLA is a 501(c)3 non-profit library that is not part of the county library system. The Templeton Library was built with private funds and continues to operate independently. The library receives no state or county funding because it is privately managed.

**Due to exponential cost increases and lack of county funding, the TCLA had to significantly reduce their budget and alter their plans.**

- In March 2020, the county redirected its funds for library facilities, forcing TCLA to move forward without any county support.
- As a result, the TCLA adopted a new plan during the pandemic, reducing the library's cost to \$1.4 million by using modular units.

### **Current Funding Model**

- The Templeton Library now operates entirely on funds from donors and efforts from volunteers.
- It relies on fundraisers and ongoing donor support to keep its doors open to the public.
- The library is 100% volunteer-run, which helps keep operational costs down.

### **Community Support**

Despite the budget challenges, the library has received significant community support:

- Margaret Anderson Radunich left a large gift to TCLA to help build the library.
- George R. Hearst Jr. made an early donation of \$100,000.
- In 2022, the TCLA president secured over \$65,500 by winning a local dance competition.

The Templeton Library's budget journey demonstrates a shift from an ambitious multi-million dollar project to a more modest, community-funded initiative that has successfully opened its doors despite financial setbacks.

## **Library Districts in California**

Library Districts are independent special districts created to provide library services to their communities. They are typically formed when local residents decide they want enhanced or dedicated library services that are not being provided by their city or county.

### **Examples of Library Districts:**

1. Buena Park Library District: This is an independent special district organized in 1919 under the Education Code of California.
2. Placentia Library District: Another example of a special district created and funded by community residents to provide library services.
3. Lassen Library District: This is a special district public library formed pursuant to library sections of the California Education Code.

### **Characteristics of Library Districts**

Library Districts share several common features with other special districts in California:

- **Independent governance:** They are typically governed by their own elected board of trustees or directors.
- **Specialized focus:** Their sole purpose is to provide library services to their community.
- **Local funding:** They are often funded through a combination of property taxes, user fees, and sometimes special assessments approved by voters.

## **Condensed summary of dialog/negotiations between TCLA, TUSD, SLO County Library staff and SLO County Supervisors Emphasis on years 2016 through 2024**

This timeline, compiled from minutes, calendars, notes, texts and recordings, outlines TCLA's ongoing efforts since 2000 to establish a partnership with SLO County for providing a library building and services to the Templeton community.

Initially, there was an agreement to share funding equally (50-50), but the feasibility of this matching fund plan came into question even before the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020. At that point, TCLA faced a critical decision: either wait (years) to partner with SLO County to build a \$5.2 million library or independently construct a more modest facility.

SLO County Library staff, along with our local Supervisor and County Superintendent, encouraged us to pursue the independent route, which we ultimately did. Despite no guarantee of operational funding (after 20 years of negotiations), we paid for and put up a structure on our leased lot. The TCLA Board felt it was crucial to act, as both our members and the community had grown weary of the long-standing promise and the seemingly stagnant progress symbolized by the half-filled fundraising thermometer.

San Luis Obispo County chose not to replace a library that the County closed in 1979 after Proposition 13 passed. Other library branches were reopened after Prop13, but Templeton remained without an operational library for forty-four years from 1979-2023. Templeton Library's location on Main Street is within walking distance of 3 of our 4 local schools, ideally situated to provide needed library services to the community. Templeton Library's completion in 2022 marked a pivotal moment yet the County's refusal to provide operational support has left us underserved again.

We no longer seek to integrate into the County's library system. Instead, we propose an independently managed Community Services District library, funded with the property taxes that Templeton owners contribute and it deserves to be fully funded and operational.

### **Templeton Library – Summary Timeline**

With thanks to Templeton Women's Civic Club for their meeting minutes from 1913-1979.

**December 1913** - Templeton Women's Civic Improvement Club founded. First action, vote to build a Reading Room and Library on a lot donated by Templeton Board of Trade at 6th and Main Street.

**Jan. 16, 1915** – Finished building, cost of materials \$339.78, labor donated. Open House for Women's Club & Reading Room. Asked for donated books, magazines and money.

**1941** Some discussion to possibly sell or move Library/Clubhouse to the park. (TWCC meeting minutes from 1942-1955 meetings have been lost.)

**1956** Women's Clubhouse is rented to SLO County for the Library, receives \$36 month rent.

**1957** Women's Club moves their social materials out of Library, meets in the Presbyterian Church Social Hall for \$2 per month.

**1960** Women's Club votes to take back Clubhouse from the County Library to allow local civic groups to host events for a fee. Exhibit B

**1977** Women's club sends letter of support to County Library Advisory Group to incorporate a Community Library into the new High School building plans.

*Above from Templeton Women's Civic Club Minutes, compiled by Ruth Peairs.*

**1979** Templeton County Library (along with 5 others) was closed by SLO County after Prop 13 passed.

**1990s** - SLO BookMobile begin visits to Templeton Saturday Farmer's Market, discontinued due to costs.

**1998** - Local boy scout, Josh Gibson, chooses Build a Library for his Eagle Scout Project. His surveys, speeches and fundraising establish interest for a Library in Templeton. Money he raised was deposited with SLO County to use to build a library. It has not been acknowledged to TCLA.

**2000** - Templeton Community Library Association (TCLA) incorporated as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit Corporation. Conversations begin with Harry Ovitt regarding SLO County policy of 50-50 to build a branch library.

April 7, 2000 Memo written on SLO City-County Library letterhead

From Art Giumni, Risk management and Rita Sciaroni, County Counsel

To Brian A. Reynolds, Library Director

Subject: Liability Issues at the "New" Templeton Branch Library

Summary: After working over a year with TCLA to create a new branch there.

Big hurdle is locating an appropriate site. Appears that land owned by Templeton Unified School District is a probability. Issue is security and safety for both TUSD and TCLA.

**2001** - TCLA begins work with SLO County Planning & Building. Leases a lot in the high school parking area for \$1.00 per year from TUSD. SLO Board of Supervisors discuss land use, parking, rezoning.

**2002** - Architect Robt. McCormick submits draft of design to meet County Library specifications. **No budget.**

**2003** County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved a General Plan amendment to change zoning to PF and authorize \$50,000 for design costs. Minor Permit application filed and other plan changes made.

**2007** Minor Use Permit issued as tentative by the County

**2008** TCLA submitted Building Permit to County

**2010** TCLA Building Permit issued.

**2012 October** - TCLA opens a free public Book Room on Main Street, as temporary way of promoting the library, all donated furniture and materials.

**2013 March 16**, Minor Use Permit became effective final action. TCLA meets with SLO County officials to discuss issues with Library being located on Templeton Unified School District property

**2014** Agreement reached with TUSD and TCLA on SLO County funding issues regarding costs exceeding 50% shared cost.

**2015** TCLA has several more meetings with SLO Supervisors to discuss building cost and cost sharing Requirements.

**May 7, 2015** Chris Barnickel presented a draft of a community survey on library interests.

**November 2015** meeting SLOCO provided operational cost to run a storefront facility at under \$50,000 annually.

**2016** TCLA is told that SLO County Library currently does not have budget to operate Templeton Library. However, SLO County requires TCLA to conduct survey to assure local interest in the library. Chris Barnickel, Library Director, offered to print our surveys. Results of 778 survey respondents strongly support library.

**March 10, 2016** Chris Barnickel informed Wayne Petersen after Nov. 2015 estimates, storefront costs would be significantly higher. e.g., Black Gold node cost of \$80,000.

**April 13, 2016** Minutes from TCLA Board meeting stipulate an approximate cost of \$7,000 for a Black Gold node, a onetime cost of \$9,000 for equipment and roughly \$32,000 in employee cost for part-time staffing.

**May 5, 2016** Discussion with Wayne Petersen, Eileen O'Grady and Chris Barnickel. Chris indicated there were **no monies available** in the SLOCO Libraries share of the county property tax revenues. Essentially monies to fund a Templeton Library must come from SLOCO general funds. Chris further indicated he will place a funding request into the 2016-2017 general budget as a placeholder for a half-time staff position.

**2017** Supervisor John Peschong makes formal request of SLO County to be included in the County budget for 2017- 2018 fiscal year.



**March 6, 2017** Chris Barnickel discussed the 2016 Community survey. He talked about a “library van concept” to be operational by July 1 of this year. Possibly updated operational items for libraries in the county. SLO County Library just re-opened their main library with updated remodel (costing over \$600,000).

**June 12, 2017** It was noted that for SLOCO library funding from property taxes allocated to libraries, \$196,000 is generated within the TCSD boundaries and \$411,000 from within the TUSD boundaries. Figures from Auditors office. (Verified July 2018 below.)

**December 4, 2017** Meeting with John Peschong, his remarks.

- 1) Comparisons: smaller SLOCO library branches have an average item circulation of 56,739.
- 2) 2) The Paso Robles library has an item circulation of 234,327.
- 3) 3) The Santa Margarita library is open 18 hours per week with a \$43,000 utility and staff cost.
- 4) 4) The Los Osos library is open 38 hours per week with a \$448,000 labor cost serving a population of 14,276 and 881 households with library cards.
- 5) The greater Templeton area population is 9,388.
- 6) SLOCO Library estimates a construction cost of \$2.2 M for our 4300 square foot branch library.
- 7) In the context of a MOU, the waiver of fees reducing costs should be attributable to correct ledger sides.
- 8) SLOCO Library estimates a \$7,000 Black Gold Membership per branch.
- 9) SLOCO Budget and Rules page 30 details the SLOCO Library estimated budget of 3.58 M.
- 10) SLOCO has 2,900 employees.

**2018** TCLA VP Petersen meets with Supervisor John Peschong to confirm that when TCLA meets its 50% funding goal the County will match our funds.

**February 12, 2018** Supervisor Peschong commented on the need to create a business plan and accumulate \$1 Million in the building fund to secure a MOU with SLOCO. Consensus was to secure a copy of the Los Osos Library MOU. The cost per square foot as determined by the SLOCO staff will result in a \$1.8 Million budget.

**July 16, 2018** Meeting w/County Auditor Property Tax Manager Barbara Goodwin, and Asst Arronne Kesler, and TCLA Director Gwen Pelfrey. Received a calculation of \$411,709.39 from 2017 property tax funds for library services, paid by Templeton property owners in the TUSD district. Printed on a calculator tape. (2024 update: Arronne Kesler, now Stoddard, 805 788-2968, recognized the tape and calculations, but could not replicate it.)

**December 2018** Margaret A. Radunich endowment brings her total donations to TCLA, \$1.4M  
**2019** TCLA notifies County we have 50% for County match funds. **County informs us they have no funds** to match with us. We are encouraged to continue fundraising. TCLA commits to

build a place to 'Gather and Grow' for our community. Other building options are noted. Christine Jenkins consultant hired with funds from Mary Bianco.

**April 29, 2019** Meeting SLO County Planning and Building. MUP is for only current building design.

**June 2, 2019** 4:30-7 pm Fundraising Event at Lori Johnston & Chris Castillo home. Dr. James Brescia spoke about library attributes. **Supv. John Peschong announced there is no facility funding for Templeton Library**, but BOS plans a bond measure on 2020 ballot. Guests disappointed, expected donor checks, not received. Lori Johnston asks for return of two \$5000 donations. (Refunded in 2020)

**June 11, 2019** Meeting in Peschong's office, \*recorded by President S. Sigmund. Shirley, Wayne, JoAnn, others met with county officials: Peschong, W. Horton, Chris Barnickel. TCLA told to build Library ourselves, **no SLOCO funds**. Shirley sent letter following the meeting asking for MOU to run the library.

**June 24, 2019** Dr. Brescia encourages us to consider a modular (Cayucos) and Cambria (retro fitted office space). Greg Guiffre, MOT, at TUSD, very supportive, with costs and info on newly completed Enviroplex HS modulars.

**July 1, 2019** Shirley Sigmund, JoAnn Jones, Doug and Melinda Reed visit Cayucos modular, includes Booksale space, small meeting/class space. Librarian 20 hours a week paid by county, 2 hours a week are paid by Friends of Cayucos Library. Volunteers handle many tasks.

**July 2, 2019** JoAnn & Bruce Jones, Doug and Melinda Reed visit Cambria Library. Larger Book store, donors tributes wood books & shelves. County paid 1 full time and 1 part time librarian.

**July 11, 2019** Angelica Fortin invited W. Petersen & M. Reed to attend Paso City Library Board of Trustees meeting to give history and update, ask to be a branch. City councilman Fred Strong said not likely, but a city decision. Fortin suggested State Library website for grants and funding, and ask county for framework of what the library needs to provide. (Learned that independent libraries are not eligible for any State Library funded programs or grants.)

**July 12, 2019** Former Boy Scout, Josh Gibson, meets with D. Arnold. Asked for 3 things. Yes/No. County funding of Library building? County funding operations? Waive building fees? She promised responses. He got none. July & August 2019 - New Vision Plan (NVP) proposal, a Sprung (membrane) structure from TCLA Director Don Potts, owner of Hollywood Tents meets with county officials on numerous occasions. He completes ground work under Main Street, with utilities extended to the library property to enable work to begin. Water and temporary power for the construction site to be installed. Cost \$17,000.

**October 14, 2019** TCLA Board meeting – G. Pelfrey and Shirley Sigmund present SLO County update that SLO County Library will operate a Templeton Branch in the designed \$5.2M structure, and was asked to operate the branch in the Templeton Recreation Department building on Main Street on a temporary basis. **J. Pechong is working toward funding this fiscal year** for

WiFi wiring and computers for temporary branch and funding next fiscal year for Templeton Express Branch.

**November 4, 2019** C. Barnickel invited TCLA to attend Los Osos Library construction meeting. C. Barnickel, his staff, Los Osos Residents, select possible sites for remodeled library. Don Potts, Doug Reed, Melinda Reed, JoAnn Jones attend.

**December 9, 2019** TCLA Board Minutes – Chris Barnickel, Director of SLO County Libraries spoke with Q & A about County Library commitment. ADDENDUM to the TCLA Monthly Meeting, December 9, 2019, condensed transcription from recording by Pres. Shirley Sigmund.

- 1) **There is a proposed county wide library bond by SLO County Board of Supervisors with the goal for the November 2020 ballot.**
- 2) 2) Chris and his staff cannot legally advocate for this bond. We (Friends groups) can. Chris stated how to advocate for the bond. Chris approached the BOS to eliminate the 50-50 rule, with example of San Miguel, which cannot raise that funding.
- 3) Six libraries would receive facility funding if the parcel tax/ bond passes (66 2/3 to pass), about 24.5 million dollars' worth of projects. Chris wants Friends groups to attend the next BOS meeting to state that they want this parcel tax measure on the November ballot.
- 4) Public Works "redid the numbers" to work with the full buildout of our library (5474 sq. ft.). Chris wanted to ensure if it is a successful bond initiative that he has the capacity to start the projects right away, and "Templeton and Los Osos are the two in which we have at the front of the queue."
- 5) If the parcel tax passes, the timeline of this project could be as follows: - Successful outcome in November - Couple of months (January) to land the funds - TCLA would need to go to Planning to update existing plans to code - Project could be in the 2021-2022 fiscal year to start construction - During an April 2019 meeting, TCLA met with Planning re: MUP, and the staff indicated that they did not see an issue with full buildout.
- 6) **Chris assured Wayne that if the bond passes, the county would be moving forward with our design/drawings and working with community feedback.** He then described different scenarios regarding a library in Templeton: - You (TCLA) can't build your own library that we run - You can work with us, and we can work with you, to build a library - **You can build your own library and become your own special district and run your own library, but I (county) can't run your library - You can be like Paso and create your own library system.** Wayne asked where Chris would find funds to operate a library in Templeton. Chris said this would be an express branch, and would have funds allocated for a staff person at 18 hours per week. The county is working on implementing automation of services so that the library can be accessed without having to have a staff person there. Wayne asked how we can be open more hours per week. Chris stated that the friends group in Cayucos pays for 4 hours of staffing per week; there are volunteers that assist in the Cayucos library. Chris said there are ways to leverage technology, volunteers and other things over time for library services.
- 7) Connie asked two questions: - Q: When could we access property tax funds? A: Chris answered, "Templeton CSD contains 11 tax rate areas that serve a good approximation of the Templeton area. In fiscal year 18-19, \$232,867 went to the library from parcels inside the Templeton CSD. So, we do not designate funds for communities. We are an 11-million-dollar budget, 6% of that comes from general fund, the rest of it comes from parcel taxes throughout the county... our department doesn't exist without parcel tax. We don't operate

saying we're going to give a certain percentage to this location and a certain percentage to that location. We're countywide libraries, so it's my responsibility to provide services throughout the county." - Q: A privately funded, privately built library, by this group would not be operated by the county. If the bond fails, will that position change? A: Chris answered, "It will not change. Legally, I can't have you build a library and part of that came about because there was a question of prevailing wage, and is there an ability to contract this out yourself, build it out, and then have us run it, and county counsel reflected on that and said we can't legally do that."

- 8) In order for Templeton to access the funds that go to library services, Templeton would have to prove to LAFCO that the services we want are not offered elsewhere. However, because the county has library services, it would be hard to prove to LAFCO that we should be a library district.
- 9) Dorothy asked about the role of the Book Room. Chris said it's a point of service with the community. Chris started a conversation with Jeff Britz about computer services (Chromebooks) to the Book Room; Jeff will secure the devices, but cannot have his staff help people work with the computer. Chris said he'd be looking to our organization to help out. The Chromebooks do not have a filter. The county libraries' computers have filters. It's up to staff to monitor what users are looking at.
- 10) Definition of an "Express Branch"- a "cute name" for a size of a branch - Regional locations include San Luis Obispo, Atascadero and Arroyo Grande, along the main core. Most staff members, most full services, several thousand sq. ft., highest collection volume, most days of operation. - Community libraries (mid-size) include Nipomo, Los Osos, Morro Bay, and Cambria. They are more community centric, fewer staff (4-5 staff) open about 30 hours a week, slightly smaller collection compared to regionals. - Express libraries include San Miguel, Santa Margarita, Oceano, Creston, Cayucos, Shandon, and are operated by one individual. They have smaller footprints, and are meant as a point of contact and a convenience for the community. What triggers a branch is when it goes online, creating a network for Black Gold, having a designated spot for pick up holds, and sending courier services back and forth to transport materials, those are things that define a branch. Chris said that Wade (Horton) said there would be no funding as far as general funds support for this (referring to staffing) until a branch is built. Chris added that if the bond does not pass, and there is the desire of the Book Room becoming a branch, there can be a further conversation with TCLA board, county admin, the county library team, to look at operational costs, and how that could be made to happen.
- 11) The Book Room is not ideal or adequate as a location because it is a shared space (preschool and other functions), and there would be concerns of securing the collection.
- 12) Chris stated that if the BOS / administration lets him know that there is another library branch that he needs to run, he will work within his budget to make it work and tap into reserves for FFE (fixtures furniture and equipment).
- 13) Connie wanted to confirm that the Chromebooks in the Book Room is not a step toward branch recognition or a promise to be put in the budget. Chris stated that it is value added, and could be considered a step toward becoming a branch. It is some component being added to the community. It is not a branch in the sense there is not Black Gold service or courier service.
- 14) Fred suggested that a simultaneous task (while waiting for the bond vote), would be to work together with Chris in the next 11 months on expediting getting a branch implemented in our

community in a temporary facility assuming it gets through TAAG and other processes. By the time the vote would be done, we would have a branch in place and would know if it would stay there or if there would be construction down the road.

- 15) Chris stated that he has already started working with his staff on each operational piece, with staff there and not staff there. He suggests that TCLA votes on whether or not it wants to move forward with the idea of creating a branch, and go to admin and the BOS and state that the desire is to build a branch, to have services. A physical space needs to be secured in which to provide services.
- 16) The current build-out is based upon Public Works estimate, and it is for 5.2 million dollars for a library building in Templeton. The other locations that are included in the bond measure Santa Margarita, San Miguel, Los Osos, Atascadero, Oceano, and Templeton.
- 17) Chris described how he increased hours at certain branches over time with retirements and vacancies. He knows our community wants more than 18 hours per week and would work on increasing operations.

**2020 January 13, 2020** TCLA Board Meeting, Chris Barnickel, and asst. Chase McMunn spoke to clarify the upcoming parcel tax (ad valorem) now \$40 Mil for 6 libraries, with “full build out” of Templeton. Only \$3.73 per \$100,000 assessed property value. Chris does not believe the county can force 50/50 payment deals on communities – unattainable for small communities. Modulars are fine for libraries as there are several existing. His fav Cayucos. We will need to keep busy doing education for the bond measure. Chromebooks sounded great, but are unfiltered (Ted Dubost said a huge liability) and we have no trained volunteer staff. No MOU required for them to be provided.

Minutes and notes by M. Pickett and S. Sigmund This is a summary transcription of the audio recording, an addendum to the TCLA Monthly Board Meeting minutes from 1/13/20, containing information provided by Chris Barnickel, Director of SLO County Libraries, and Chase McMunn, Assistant Director of SLO County Libraries. Key points mentioned in the document:

1. Update on Paso City Library potentially joining the bond.
2. The bond amount is set at \$40 million, with an increased parcel tax.
3. Phone polling of around 900 registered voters for feedback on library bond and affordable housing.
4. Formulation of polling questions based on past library bond measures.
5. Discussion on the possibility of the county operating a community-built library.
6. Consideration of modular buildings for library construction.
7. Plans for public library buildings awaiting updates for code compliance.
8. General Services now referred to as Planning and Building.
9. Preference for the Cayucos library as a model.
10. Potential use of existing modular buildings for library projects.
11. Clarifications on building restrictions and replacement options.
12. Focus on fundraising through a bond measure.
13. Challenges faced by the Los Osos library project.
14. Priority of Templeton and Los Osos libraries within the bond.
15. Proposal for an ad valorem parcel tax for 20 years.
16. Property tax assessment based on project costs.

17. Use of Chromebooks in the Book Room without an MOU.
  18. Absence of specific amounts for cities in the bond measure.
  19. Estimated annual spending and project capacity.
  20. Monthly progress meetings during project implementation.
  21. Bond strictly for capital costs, not operations.
  22. Collaboration with Planning and Building departments.
  23. Plans for full buildout of libraries.
  24. Clarification on funding sources for projects.
  25. Library policy on hours, room rentals, and meeting rooms.
  26. Restrictions on events at the library, no alcohol allowed.
  27. Community room usage policy and exceptions for partner groups.
- Remainder of TCLA business meeting, included TCLA Election of Officers – Melinda Reed President; Wayne Petersen Vice President; JoAnn Jones Treasurer; Malcolm Pickett, Secretary. There was consensus, not unanimous, for the board to continue exploring other building options

**January 21, 2020** M. Reed introduced self to J. Britz, TCSD who last spoke to County on 10/25/19. Britz hopes we will work with County. New opportunity with bond measure. Discussed problem with Chromebooks unfiltered. He hopes TCLA will do a “trial” with County on the Chromebooks to offer that service, not available elsewhere in Templeton. Establish some stats like who uses/ how long. Job seekers? Possibly need printer to print resumes? He thinks Chris B more willing to work with us if we help him. Asked the TCLA site near the river, homeless issue? Britz verified TCLA agreement to get water to our site.

**January 2020** Supvr. Peschong sent \$1000 fundraising grant for Barn Dance port-a potty cleaning.

**March 10, 2020** SLO BOS meeting w/public speakers regarding the Bond Measure. C. Barnickel requested Friends Groups speak publicly in support of the bond measure. TCLA President Melinda Reed spoke emphasizing 50-50 plan not workable for small communities. March 20, 2020 Chase McMunn emailed that County would not go forward with ballot measure. Covid on the horizon.

**April 13, 2020** TCLA Board meetings now all on Zoom. County no longer going forward with bond, our Building Plan B option, to explore other building options, including modulars, is in effect.

**May 11, 2020** TCLA Board approved feasibility study by Alan Kroeker of 19Six architects, SLO. Alan, a former TUSD employee, is familiar with our lot & lease and works with Enviroplex modulars.

**August 9, 2021** Email from Martin Hom, attorney with Tao Rossini, specializing in construction litigation, confirming for our architect & builder that prevailing wage bids not necessary for construction. “This is a follow up to our telephone conversation today. The question that the Templeton Community Library has – is whether it is required to pay prevailing wages for the construction of its new library. It is my understanding that the Templeton Community Library is

planning on constructing a new library on land leased from the Templeton Unified School District... The Templeton Library plans on using only private funds for the construction of the library. Based on the fact that only private funds are being used for the new library project, prevailing wages would NOT be applicable.”

**August 12, 2020** Building committee conferred with Aaron Asplund Superintendent of TUSD Considering modular library. Presented Business Case which included asking SLO County for an MOU to operate the library or option B operate it with volunteers.

**August 26, 2020** TCLA Board building site visit with Alan Kroeker and tour of Enviroplex modulars at High school. Questions and answers.

**August 29, 2020** TCLA special meeting to discuss and approve quote for CEQA study report by Firma.

**September 14, 2020** TCLA Board meeting to confirm proposal from Alan Kroeker, 19Six architects.

**October 9, 2020** Mailed annual letter with Director ballots and proposal to purchase modular buildings to TCLA membership.

**October 22, 2020** TUSD approved and renewed our lease for another 20 years of total 60 years.

**October 23, 2020** Opened 86 member ballots on question of purchasing of modular buildings Yes 84 votes, No 2 votes. Early tally needed for indication to go forward with architects.

**November 9, 2020** Annual Member meeting. Final vote count on purchasing modulars of 106 ballots – Yes 102, No 3 certified by Jonah Yamagata, CPA. 2021 Year of building design decisions, floors, siding, interior.

**November 9 th** Ground Breaking. TCLA chose pre-approved DSA Enviroplex menu of items for speedy permit process. Continue operation of the Book Room with volunteers. Nancy Whitt took over for Marcea Petersen. Implemented Libib catalog and labeling system of all donated materials. Nancy Whitt begins SOP documents and an inventory.

**January 4, 2021** LAFCO interim director D. Church encourages CSD activation, thru LAFCO. Email TCL.

**December 30, 2021** Mike Stoker, Div. Supv for SLOCO Planning & Building called regarding construction, no County involvement, work with DSA. Updated County records 1/6/22. 2022

**February 3, 2022** County Library Friends Group Presidents invites TCLA to join with C. Barnickel.

**February 7, 2022** C. Barnickel and staff visit Book Room in Main St. Rec Department. Offers “culled” County books, possible programs, Sprint deliveries, impressed with cataloged

collection. Mentioned, “But don’t ask us for training.” Comment that N. Whitt and M. Reed noted.

**February 22, 2022** Gifted 8 used good condition library carts from Paso Robles City library.

**March 29, 2022** Nine Enviroplex Modular Buildings landed by truck, were craned into position. Continued fundraising for Fire sprinklers. Final check list, wait on PG&E, Move in, Sign Off, soft opening.

**August 9, 2022** C. Barnickel called M. Reed regarding Sprint van visits locally.

**October 2022** Visit by Leigh Livick and Jeannie Malik from Atascadero Library from FOAL

**December 13, 2022** text exchange C. Barnickel & M. Reed regarding news article on library. Reed’s quote copied and sent by Barnickel as unfair depiction of his statement for no training. Responded that N. Whitt concurred about his statement. “No animosity, we are proud of our accomplishment and celebrating building and operating. You and staff welcome anytime. “ December 17, 2022 Red Ribbon cutting, cake and simple celebration of library soft opening. 2023

**January 3, 2023** Templeton Library opens! Goal to get full year of operations under our belt. Installed a container for storage. Programs begin: Story telling – children & adult. Speakers and author signings. Art and gardening, floral arranging classes, Library Book Club.

**January 12, 2023** Jeff Briltz visits library. Complimentary. Doubtful TCSD is a viable plan.

**January 20, 2023** Jeannie Malik, Leigh Livik of Atascadero FOAL visit library, impressed. Cautioned against working with SLO County because quite restrictive. Friends groups not allowed to fund programs unless all other branches get similar. Can’t hang a plaque, or provide materials. Felt we are extremely fortunate not to be a county branch.

**February 14, 2023** John Peschong visits library. Impressed, noted nonfiction and current selections. Again offered small community fund raiser grants, now up to \$2500.

**May 16, 2023** Paso Librarian Eric Lashley visits, amazed at the library, recommends Apollo catalog system far less expensive than the Koha system that SLO Library uses.

May 17, 2023 M. Reed, N. Whitt and J. Kuhn met with Peschong in his Templeton office regarding funding for Templeton Library. **The County's fiscal year is July 1 with departmental cuts and a slim budget. No MOU forthcoming to operate Templeton library due funding shortages.** However, there may be money available (\$150-200K?) for specific needs, programs or projects, but we must demonstrate the need with data and figures and submit a proposal to Peschong. (Attached) The correlation of these two meetings highlighted a need for a new computer system. Current Libib system cannot provide needed data to evaluate our collection and loaning history. Email 5/17/23 \* Library Proposal for funding 6/3/23, attached. July 25, 2023



Hired Site Coordinator Shannon Brown to relieve Board President and VP of daily oversight of operations with volunteer staff. First payroll expense accounts.

**August 7, 2023** Reed gave library first tour to C. Barnickel, Araceli and Charlie. Impressed, they compared it to not yet open Oceano refurbished modular only 1500 sq ft for more \$\$\$. Also Arroyo Grande retrofit is now \$3.1M estimated. Discussed catalog systems. Barnickel stated his \$13M budget not enough to run 14 branches. **No money for Templeton**, reclassified all SLO staff, no longer a saved staff position Templeton. He has no idea where J. Peschong could find funds for requested proposal, he has seen the list of County needs. Our recent Summer Reading program (410 hours read by 100 children, cost under \$500) impressive. He and staff agree advantages and flexibility as an independent library.

**August 9, 2023** SLO Co office meeting J. Peschong, C. Barnickel, V. Janssen, M. Reed, N. Whitt, J. Kuhn, S. Brown. Peschong asked our yearly expenses and fundraising income. Only process is gift of public funds from 3 Supervisors. Told us to talk to 4 Supervisors. Barnickel's budget is 97% from property taxes. How does SLO Library serve Templeton residents? No courier van or sprinter vans. They serve the homebound, and with Libby. Barnickel said digital content costs \$263K per year, licensing. **No MOU forthcoming. Peschong offered small community grants** – apply with Vicky for fundraising. TCLA feels County has obligations, long term sustainable funding is our goal. Will continue to operate independently and provide physical library services to the schools and the community with our current budget. Barnickel spoke of gift of book return box. Email to A. Asplund TUSD on 8/10/23. Later on August 9, 2023 C. Barnickel text regarding a Book Return box at County Surplus. Reed inquired about it's size and description.

**August 21, 2023** C. Barnickel, Araceli, Charlie, Susana, Erica & Monique, SLO Staff visit Templeton Library and operations. Barnickel confirmed used Surplus book return box to "protect SLO Library loaned materials" that may be returned to Templeton Library. County investigating a method to help us purchase materials (?) and may be able to add County digital access for our patrons. These advantages "may be an important step in continuing a rapport with the County system."

**August 28, 2023** M. Reed picked up Book Return box from SLOCO Surplus. August 31, 2022 R. Peach installed box on required cement base with anchor bolts

**September 13, 2023** – MOU signed with SLO CO Library. Agreement to receiving a used (surplus) book return box, which we must bolted in place. After training, we will receive a SLO laptop, valued on MOU as \$1200 and offer SLO Library cards to our patrons to place holds on books to be delivered to Templeton Library, one Friday a month. (Delayed until 2024 due to computer issues.)

**September 25, 2023** TCLA purchased Biblionix catalog system now online. Smooth transition, from Libib, with minor issue of extra digit for member numbers. 2024 March 8, 2024 Training Meeting from SLO Staff Chris Barnickel, Charlie, Araceli, Jackie. Templeton Library - Melinda, Christy, Kerry, Nancy, Shannon. Training on SLO Library cards, requirements. Koha system and our check out procedures on their laptop

**March 14, 2024** SLO staff Jackie & Charlie make first delivery of SLO books (4) put on hold by SLO Library card holders from Templeton. Jackie & Charlie go over procedures with Shannon. Charlie installed an app on Shannon's laptop to worked out procedures. Use for scanning and list of borrowed materials to send via email or flash drive. Good for all. Few SLO card requests.

**March 21, 2024** Second delivery of SLO Library holds, only Melinda & Mick. Shannon returned laptop to SLO staff, since low volume doesn't warrant the use of a separate laptop. Sent an email confirming the laptop return since its value is listed in the MOU. Acknowledged by Aracelli.

**March 28, 2024** SLO Staff Charlie & Jackie bring back the SLO laptop. Relayed a long Admin meeting with Chris and staff. Seems Atascadero is not happy about having to pull and provide Templeton holds or have to record, scan and check ins. County expected more traffic, up to 50 a day or at least a week. Less than 10 for 3 weeks. For us it is overkill to use a separate laptop for just a few check outs. We have not yet publicized this opportunity. Shannon stated the procedure using our Admin laptop was much more efficient. We thanked them but said we did not need the laptop. They said the Admin team wanted to give the program more publicity and evaluate again in late May. Yes, good plan.

**March 29, 2024** C. Barnickel emailed that he was ending the hold/delivery of SLO materials if we did not use the laptop training. But he was open to other opportunities.

**May 23 2024** Applied for Community Funding grant. Rec'd \$3000 for Flea Market supplies on 6/10/24

**July 3, 2024** SLOCO Sprinter van and staff attend Templeton Concerts in the park, library card forms. (repeated August 21, 2024) To increase Templeton resident membership.

**July 9, 2024** Phone call to Vicky Jansen regarding meeting with Peschong about sustainable funding. Was the day Pride presentation to board meeting where people showed graphic figures. John had left the meeting and would be busy until after the Fair, August of Sept. She would relay message. No word.

**July 16, 2024** BOS Meeting Dawn Ortiz-Legg read a resolution commending Shell Beach Library branch for 75 years of service to the community. Recently SLO County increased their hours by 60 %. Shell Beach (pop. 8,044) quoted stats 709 library card holders, over 5100 books checked out in 2023. Note: Templeton (pop. 8614) Templeton Library has 1503 library card holders, over 6,313 books checked out in the first 8.5 months 2024.

#### Key Points:

- Templeton built a library in 1915; it was handed over to the county but closed, along with five other branches, after Prop 13. While the other branches were reopened, Templeton's was not.
- Templeton property owners have paid a property taxes for library services since 1979, with minimal access to services from the Atascadero branch. LAFCO Interim Director D. Church encouraged us to activate CSD powers and ask SLO CO for property tax funding.
- SLO County made multiple requests for stats, surveys, and proposals from TCLA, only to delay or dismiss them.

- Since COVID, SLO Libraries have reorganized staffing, and cut a temporary reserved half time position for Tempelton, increasing hours at other small branches.
- Shell Beach Library, a similar size community, has fewer library cardholders and less borrowing activity than Templeton, but was recently celebrated by the BOS for its 75th anniversary.
- Templeton Library is built from recycled materials, meets strict seismic and architectural codes, and is 100% recyclable. It exceeds county standards and codes and is fully paid for.
- In 2023, Templeton Library implemented a user-friendly cataloging system, more cost-effective than the County's Koha system, with all materials cataloged in-house and available on a website.
- The County's abrupt cancellation of the MOU for Templeton Library to enroll patrons as SLO County library card holders indicatives a lack of commitment to Templeton.

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We will send you an email with a link to our donation page. You'll submit your donation on our website to receive your receipt and tax deduction.

## WATCH YOUR OAK THRIVE

Once your donation has been received, we will spend two hours delivering the most biodynamic soil treatment available from Black Diamond Vermicompost.

## FAQS

### *What is Black Diamond Vermicompost?*

Black Diamond VermiCompost supplies one of the most important components for healthy plant growth. We are producers of some of the finest vermicompost in the country. This stable, mature and biologically active product is the result of our proprietary processes. Humates, bacteria, fungi, protozoa and beneficial nematodes are present and play important roles in productive soils. When combined with the right balance of pH, minerals, air and quality water, you now have the recipe for strong trees with a minimum of disease or pest pressure.

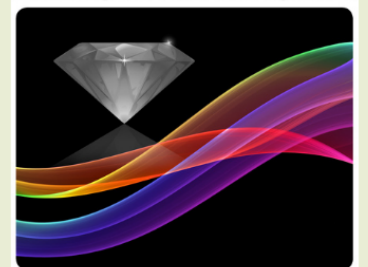
### *What does it do for oaks?*

As soils become dry, the fine feeder roots in the upper soil surface will begin to die, thus putting the root system out of balance with the amount of foliage found above ground. When rain does return, the plant may not be able to take full advantage of this much-needed water because of its reduced root mass and reduced soil biology. Soil biology is vital to rapid healthy root growth. Soil microbial communities (soil foodweb) improves water holding capacity by binding soil particles together forming aggregates. They also aid roots by keeping nutrients near root zones and compete with disease-causing microbes.

### *Is it safe?*

Black Diamond Vermicompost is a registered Organic Input Material and safe to use around children and animals. Just think of it as the most biodynamic soil. Dirt don't hurt!

**BLACK DIAMOND**



VERMICOMPOST

The driest year in Paso Robles history was 2013-2014 with just 6.13 inches of rain.

In an attempt to save the largest and oldest trees on our ranch, we treated them with vermicompost tea using deep root treatment tools commonly used in the arbor industry.



This tree is not one of the 3 treated. The trees on the right, however, did look much like this prior to treatment.

3 trees were treated with 50 gallons each.

### Oak trees at Black Diamond VermiCompost, Paso Robles No compost tea vs. compost tea and vertical mulch treatment.

Treatment: remove Spanish moss and dead wood; Infuse root system with vermicompost tea and add vermicompost to holes created by tea instilling equipment. Add straw mulch. Two applications - once in April 2012 and once in May 2013. Arborist - Stitt Plant Care. Both photos above were taken Nov. 2013.



August 2022

These trees have received rain and mulch only since treated with compost tea in 2013. Soil tilth has dramatically improved from severe compaction to loam 14" deep. Soil remains moist nearly to the end of summer, acorns are larger than other trees and leaves remain on the tree long after other trees have dropped theirs.



# LET'S TALK

## *Branch failure*

## WHY DO OAKS DROP BRANCHES?

### *Physics*

A mature oak tree can produce somewhere around 700,000-1M leaves in a year in three different flushes of growth that conclude in midsummer. Oaks grow from the their tips, adding weight at the ends of their branches late in the season. Each leaf also collects dust and pollen from the air. That means the branches are their heaviest towards autumn. Hot, dry conditions may exacerbate internal branch defects and branches are shed when their load-bearing capacity is exceeded.

### *Pheromones*

Oaks are a communal species and they communicate via soil microbes (fungal mycelium) and pheromones in the air. When one oak senses threat or has a need, the others in the network receive this information as well. A hot, calm afternoon reduces the flow of water in the branch, causing the branch temperature and the concentration of ethylene to increase. Ethylene, a gaseous hormone found in all plants, is known to promote the process of cell aging. Elevated levels of ethylene may weaken the cell wall cementation which when coupled with reduced transpiration and increased root pressure, increases internal sap pressure, moisture content of branches, and limb weight, resulting in branch failure.

### *The Need for Nutrients*

The end of the hot, dry growing season means the start of acorn and leaf drop. Acorns and their parents need soil nutrients for a life of hundreds of years in the same space. Dust and pollen collected on leaves is very nutritious after it has decomposed in the winter rain. The leaf duff and small branches provide a nursery for acorns to take root. Older trees will drop branches to feed the woodland at the best time of the year: in preparation for the acorns and overwintering. The mycelium and pheromone signals from other trees in the network may stimulate older trees to fill needs for the young.



# LET'S TALK

## *Branch failure*

## WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?

### *Physics*

Have your oak assessed by a professional arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture. Regularly observe oaks to watch for lowering branches, fractured bark, or open cavities. Have oaks maintained with professional pruning to keep weight balanced and take out dead wood. Keep in mind pruning that encourages uneven growth at the end of a limb, or over-pruning can put tremendous stress on limbs due to the added weight of the new growth.

### *Pheromones*

Oaks are gonna oak. If there are environmental conditions that have stressed the tree or older trees are not maintained, branches can fall somewhat unexpectedly. It can be prudent to keep property out from under oaks that are prone to branch failure. Once an oak has lost a branch, it - or its neighbors - could be more likely to lose another. It is the oak way.

### *The Need for Nutrients*

Look to the oak's environment to see if there is a nutrient need the oak is trying to fill. Oak roots that have been covered by concrete or asphalt are not able to benefit from decomposing leaf matter IF that leaf matter has been left on the ground. People are pretty good at cleaning up under oaks. You can leave the leaves for the tree and allow soil regeneration. OR you can ask us about our FEED A TREE program and provide those nutrients if the oak cannot!

**PLEASE DO NOT WATER  
MATURE OAKS IN SUMMER!**

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