

FREE

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## City set to name new contractor to finish library

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Millbrae City Council is expected to restart the stalled library construction by replacing tomorrow the former contractor whose financial

mess put a screeching halt on the project.

Council members are expected to approve a new agreement with a new contractor, Gonsalves and Stronck Construction Co., which

built the city's police department. Gonsalves and Stronck, which has submitted the third-lowest bid for the library project last year, is familiar with the plan.

The new contractor estimates that

they can finish the building of the library by mid-October. The three-month delay will cost the city about \$21,000, which pays for the expense of keeping a temporary library open until then. The original cost of the

library construction project was \$8.3 million. No new public money will be needed to restart the project, officials said.

"The money is all there," council

## LIBRARY IN LIMBO

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member Marc Hershman said. "There's no reason the project can't continue."

What's left is the finish work and landscaping, Hershman said.

The 26,000-square-foot new library was financed with a \$10.8 million bond.

The city's insurer on this project, Travelers Insurance, is asking the city to forgo damages in the amount of \$200 a day for the delay in order to restart building quickly. Millbrae city

staff agreed, recommending that the council do exactly that to get the project finished as quickly as possible.

Millbrae City Council meets at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at 621 Magnolia Ave.

The original contractor, Dennis J. Amoroso Construction, left a trail of unfinished projects and litigation throughout the Bay Area, including in Burlingame, Palo Alto and Pacifica.

Burlingame officials has said subcontractors working under Amoroso began notifying them that Amoroso failed to pay its bills when the city's approximately \$11 million, 54,800-square-foot yard to store public works equipment was being built last year. The city was able to move into the yard.

Pacifica City Manager Joseph Tanner said Amoroso basically walked away from the city's police station project, forcing the city to

hire its own contractor to finish the job. Police moved into the new station in March last year, a full year after the project's scheduled completion.

Palo Alto Unified School District is still in litigation with Amoroso over work done at two elementary schools.

This dispute, dating back to 2001, includes problems with Amoroso not paying its subcontractors.