

NEWS

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
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Efforts underway to resume work on Crestline Library

The final stages of work on the new Crestline Library temporarily came to a halt on Friday when the contractor informed the county that it could no longer work on the project.

Gamut Construction notified the county on Friday that it could no longer complete its contractual obligations and was voluntarily defaulting on the project. A surety company, required for all public construction projects, will step in to ensure work on the project resumes. Gamut has promised to provide any information and cooperation that might be necessary to get the project back on track under new leadership.

Work on the Crestline Library will resume once the surety company can assess the situation and arrange for work to continue. Surety company representatives are scheduled to visit the site with county officials on Wednesday.

"This happens from time to time on construction projects, which is why government requires contractors to make contingency plans to ensure work will continue," said county director of Architecture and Engineering Carl Alban. "I am confident work on the Crestline Library will resume soon."

Gamut, which has been in business for 15 years, did not officially inform the county why it could no longer work on the project. However, Gamut's decision to voluntarily default was not the result of any dispute with the county or any failure on the county's part to fulfill its obligations. The county's understanding is that Gamut has backed out of all of its public works projects for various agencies.

The building is more than 80 percent complete and weatherproof. However, some work remains to be completed on the building's interior, parking areas, and landscaping.

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The new 7,641 square-foot Crestline Library, located at 24105 Lake Gregory Drive next to the Crestline Village/Skate Park and across from Lake Gregory Regional Park, includes a multipurpose room, children's reading area, and study areas. There will be 26 computers available for public use.

The new library has been built to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver standard. LEED buildings utilize less energy and water than traditional buildings. This will reduce utility costs for the facility while also conserving resources. It will replace the existing Crestline Library located in a 3,169 square-foot former U.S. post office the county has leased for more than 20 years.