By Amy Sylvestri

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A $33 million revamp of San Lorenzo is in the works, but no new tenant has been found for the former Mervyn's site, which has long stood empty in the center of the village.

The project will include a new community center, senior housing, a library expansion, and

landscaping. It is being developed by the David Bohannon Organization in collaboration with the county.

The development will be funded by some county money that was approved for the project before redevelopment agencies were dissolved last year, according to Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan.

Chan said the timeline for construction is beginning this spring and will last through 2016.

There are no plans for new tenants on the site of the former Mervyn's. Some empty buildings near the Mervyn's site will be demolished, though Kavanaugh Liquors will remain open.

"The developers are looking at a lot of possibilities (for the Mervyn's lot) and negotiations are starting up, but nothing planned at this time," said Chan.

The first part of the new construction will be in the San Lorenzo Village Shopping Center at

15800 Hesperian Boulevard. Shops and restaurants in the center such as Black Angus and Loard's Ice Cream will be open during the construction and will be getting new storefronts and roofs.

Other projects include an estimated $9 million expansion of the San Lorenzo library, which will break ground in January 2014, according to Chan.

Bohannon is also in negotiations to sell some land to an affordable senior housing developer.

"They are in the very early stages of talks about the housing element," Chan said. She anticipates they would begin on the senior housing construction in 2015.

Also, Hesperian Boulevard will have its power lines put underground and medians landscaped beginning in June, according to Chan. And the county and Bohannon are also in the design stage of planning a community plaza adjacent to the library.

Chan said that getting the San Lorenzo plan off the ground has been difficult due to the economic downturn and the elimination of redevelopment agencies, but she is glad to see it happen.

“I’m happy about it,” said Chan. “I’m glad that we are being able to go forward with this. The community has wanted this for a long time.”

CAPTION: The San Lorenzo Library will be expanded as part of the construction plans in the upcoming year for the San Lorenzo Village.

PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI