

Katherine Douglas *Public Comment, Community Resources + Public Facilities*

From: peter ginsberg <peterlgins@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 8:23 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: To: Clerk of the Board

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Dear County Board of Supervisors,

First, my appreciation for all your efforts to make our county and its communities and services as strong as they are. It's why it is one of the most desirable places to live in the country. I'm a longtime supporter of our excellent libraries and specifically of the Santa Barbara Library serving on the board of the Santa Barbara Library Foundation. I am also a book publishing professional but the library is about so much more than books as its increasing number of users indicates.

I appreciate that at these challenging times there are constraints on government budgets at all levels. Difficult decisions need to be made. However, given the breadth and depth of services our library provides and their proven effectiveness, even life changing opportunities abound:

Our children thrive: learning opportunities, after school and summer programs, teaching reading excellence.

Our citizens prosper: job training, career building, English language tools, research and knowledge based activities.

Safety: our library provides safe haven and learning skills to protect our community members and develop skills to confront life's uncertainties

Combating illiteracy: research and statistics show our nation's literacy rate is plummeting. The library is the recognized #1 outlet to overcome this societal crisis; not only for children but for a growing number of adults.

None of this is possible without the funding our library counts on from the county. Please consider some of your other priorities like housing and safety. Without the meaningful opportunities the library offers how will our incoming families manage finding their home, financing it and identifying resources that can help them? Regarding safety our dedicated first responders need to be supported by a knowledgeable and pro active citizen base. The skills and knowledge base is all available at our libraries. Countless other services are provided on a daily basis at our Santa Barbara central library and its branches and indeed at libraries county wide.

\$4M in County funding is shared across city libraries and, while modest, supports services used by residents countywide, not just within each city. The excellence of our libraries means the growing number of patrons use multiple branches for various services and programs.

I hope you will give this your careful consideration as you analyze the true return on investment the library excels in providing. Your support of critical funding ensures the growth and well being of our community members.

My thanks.

Yours sincerely,
Peter L. Ginsberg