



City of Buellton

April 13, 2017

Mayor Helene Schneider
City Council Members
City of Santa Barbara
P.O. Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Buellton Library Budget

Dear Mayor Schneider and City Council Members,

As Buellton's representative on the Library Advisory Committee, I have participated in the discussions regarding the budgets for the Zone 1 libraries, and the City has a concern regarding the proposed Fiscal Year budget for the Buellton Library and its impact on library services and to the budget of the City of Buellton.

Based on the Zone 1 budget presented to the Library Advisory Committee on April 12, 2017, the administrative fee in Fiscal Year 15-16 was based on 9% of the County per capita revenues. In Fiscal Year 16-17, the calculation of the administrative fee was changed to 9% of the total revenues with little notification or discussion by the contract cities or the advisory committee. For Fiscal Year 17-18 you are proposing to increase the administrative fee to 18% of the total revenues. While the City understands the loss of reserves and the need to cover your expenses, the increase to 18% will have a negative impact on the City and its library. Last year, the City increased its contribution to the library so that a separate supervisor could be hired for the Buellton Library and to open the library 6 days a week. Now we find out that under the current budget scenario, the library cannot be open for 6 days. That is disappointing to the City and its residents.

The City of Buellton respectfully requests that the City of Santa Barbara phase in the 18% administrative fee increase over a three year period. We can most likely accommodate the smaller budget increases each year while keeping the library services at a status quo.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Holly Sierra

Mayor

Library Advisory Board Committee Member

Cc: Paul Casey, City Administrator