



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
For Agenda Of: April 1, 2014
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Herman D. Parker, Community Services Director (805) 568-2467
Director:
Contact Info: Herman D. Parker, Community Services Director (805) 568-2467
SUBJECT: Proposed Library Special Tax and Survey; Second Supervisorial District.

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize staff to partner with the City of Goleta and approve a public survey to explore the feasibility of developing a library special tax ballot measure for the November 2014 election that would establish a special tax in the County Service Area 3 boundaries for library services and operations, as recommended by the Library Advisory Committee; and
- b) Determine that the special tax survey and development of a ballot measure are not the approval of a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(4), finding that such actions involve the creation of a governmental funding mechanism or other government fiscal activity, which does not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE).

Summary Text:

The City of Goleta (City) has proposed initiating November 2014 ballot measures for a special tax to provide additional funding for the Goleta Library. Funds generated by the special tax would be used for library operations, materials, administration and capital. The measures would encompass the same geographic incorporated City and unincorporated County areas of the former County Service Area 3 (CSA 3), and as such the City proposes that the ballot measures for the special tax be companion measures, with the County and the City placing concurrent measures on their ballots in November for their respective geographic areas. Analysis of the proposed measures are currently in progress, with the City evaluating different special tax scenarios that have the potential to generate \$437K to \$1.1 million in revenue to cover library budget shortfalls and other operational costs.

In an effort to assess the community's interest in the proposed special tax, the City is planning to select a consultant to conduct a community survey. The County has been requested by the City to participate in the review and development of the survey tool which would be used to assess public interest and support for the measures in the City as well as the County areas within CSA 3. The cost of the survey is approximately \$20,000. These funds would be requested for payment by Library Zone 1 Administration (City of Santa Barbara) from the Goleta Library Reserve Fund.

On March 12, 2014, the Library Advisory Committee voted for the proposed library tax survey to move forward. This request is for the Board to approve and authorize staff to partner with the City of Goleta to prepare and participate in a community interest survey in the unincorporated CSA 3 area. The County will review the survey document and must concur with all questions on the survey document.

The survey process is anticipated to take approximately five weeks to complete. County support for the survey would not further commit the Board of Supervisors to any potential library tax ballot measure by either City of Goleta or County of Santa Barbara.

Background:

The Goleta Library is a heavily-utilized library serving the residents of the City of Goleta and the unincorporated areas of CSA 3. CSA 3 was created in 1962 and encompassed the City and the unincorporated region of the Goleta Valley under the jurisdiction of the County of Santa Barbara. When the City incorporated in February 2002, the City detached from CSA 3 and became the successor to the County's authority to levy, fix and collect charges, fees, assessments and taxes within the City boundaries in the same manner as the County. The authority over former CSA 3 is hence divided into two jurisdictions: the City and the County, however, the Goleta library is located in the City of Goleta, not CSA 3.

Funding for Goleta's library services comes from a combination of sources including collection by the County of Santa Barbara of a special parcel tax (Measure L), approved by the voters of CSA 3 in 1990, to be used for library facilities and services. Other revenue sources come from the Santa Barbara County General Fund, Library fees, fines and room rentals, interest earnings, development impact fees, and contributions from non-profit organizations and other private source donations.

The existing special tax (Measure L) can be increased annually for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Any other increase must meet Proposition 218 (Prop 218) requirements. Prop 218 was approved by voters in 1996 to constrain the authority of cities, counties and special districts to raise revenue by requiring compliance with mandatory procedural and substantive requirements. Prop 218 defines "special tax" as any tax imposed for specific purposes, including taxes imposed for specific purposes and placed into a general fund. Any imposition, extension or increase of special taxes requires a two-thirds vote of the electorate, or supermajority.

The City of Goleta is requesting the County partner in the development and implementation of a library special tax interest survey. The survey would be developed with the assistance of a consultant selected by the City of Goleta. The County of Santa Barbara would assist in the development of the survey tool and approve the survey tool before it is distributed to the community. The survey would assess the community's interest and support for a library special tax in the City of Goleta and the unincorporated CSA 3.

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative:

Approximately \$246,000 is generated by Measure L in the City of Goleta and approximately \$170,000 is generated by Measure L in the County Service Area 3. These two funding sources generate a total of approximately \$416,000 in funding to the Goleta Library through Zone 1, City of Santa Barbara.

The City of Santa Barbara administers Zone 1 and carefully monitors and maintains a Goleta Library Reserve Fund. These funds provide funding for library operations and administration for the Goleta Library. The Goleta Library Reserve Fund currently has a balance of approximately \$450,000; \$20,000 from this fund would be requested by the City of Goleta to provide the funding for the survey.

Special Instructions:

After Board action, please send minute order to Jessica Rauch.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Proposed tax increase scenarios

Attachment 2 – CSA 3 Map

Attachment 3 – CEQA Notice of Exemption