



**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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
Agenda Date: December 16, 2025
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority; 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Jesús Armas, Director, Community Services Department
Contact Info: Andrew Myung, Assistant Director, Finance & Administration
SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2025-26 Countywide Library System Agreement

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Risk Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute a one-year Agreement for Operation of a Countywide Library System (the "Agreement"), (Attachment 1), by and between the County and the Cities of Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, Goleta, Lompoc and Santa Maria ("Cities") for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in the total amount not to exceed \$5,147,814;
- b) Approve budget revision to establish appropriations of \$130,000 for infrastructure improvements for the Goleta Valley Library funded by AB1600 Goleta Library Impact Fees (4/5 vote required); and
- c) Determine that the above recommended actions 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)(5), finding that the action involves government organizational or administrative activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

Staff is seeking the Board's approval, ratification, and authorization for the Chair to execute the annual Agreement for Operation of Countywide Library System with the cities of Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, Goleta, Lompoc, and Santa Maria.

Background:**Countywide Library Contract / Annual Agreement**

The County has contracted with local cities to administer County Branch Libraries for over 50 years. Library services in the County are provided via the Cities' main libraries and various County Branch Libraries as a way to efficiently use existing facilities and avoid duplication of services. The following Cities will provide library services within the five Zones as follows:

- **Zone 1: Santa Barbara.** Services provided to the City of Santa Barbara and unincorporated areas located within or in close proximity to Santa Barbara, Montecito, Summerland, and Mission Canyon.
- **Zone 2: Lompoc.** Services provided to the City of Lompoc and unincorporated areas located within or in close proximity to Lompoc, Vandenberg Village, and Vandenberg Air Force Base.
- **Zone 3: Santa Maria.** Services provided to the cities and unincorporated areas located within or in close proximity to Cuyama, Guadalupe, Los Alamos, Orcutt, and Santa Maria.
- **Zone 4: Goleta.** Services provided to the cities and unincorporated areas located within or in close proximity to Goleta, Solvang, Buellton, Eastern Goleta Valley, Community Service Area 3, Hope Ranch, Isla Vista, Gaviota, Santa Ynez and Los Olivos.
- **Zone 5: Carpinteria.** Services provided to the City of Carpinteria and unincorporated areas located within or in close proximity to Carpinteria and Toro Canyon.

Table 1: County Library Funding by Library Zone – Fiscal Year 2025-26

Library Zones	Population Estimates (Source: CA State Librarian)	FY 25-26 Per Capita (\$9.42)	Additional GFC – Minimum Service Level at County Branches	Small Library/ Other County Funding	FY25-26 Total Amount by Zone
Zone 1 - Santa Barbara	100,615	\$948,246	\$230,294	\$65,000	\$1,243,540
Zone 2 - Lompoc	59,400	\$559,815	\$40,033	\$15,000	\$614,848
Zone 3 - Santa Maria	159,503	\$1,503,236	\$189,164	\$63,900	\$1,756,300
Zone 4 - Goleta	111,131	\$1,047,354	\$167,928	\$142,500	\$1,357,782
Zone 5 - Carpinteria	16,483	\$155,344	-	-	\$155,344
Countywide				\$20,000	\$20,000
Total	447,132	\$4,213,995	\$627,419	\$306,400	\$ 5,147,814

The County of Santa Barbara allocated General Funds to every library in the County, including the five City Libraries (Santa Barbara Main/Eastside, Goleta Valley, Lompoc, Santa Maria, and Carpinteria) and eight County Branches. The County allocates annual funding to each of the library Zones on a per capita basis using population figures

certified by the California State Library and State Department of Finance. Approximately 64% or \$3.3 million of the \$5.1 million in funding goes towards the five City Libraries. The remaining approximately 36% of funding goes towards the eight County Branch Libraries (Montecito, Vandenburg Village, Cuyama, Guadalupe, Los Alamos, Orcutt, Isla Vista, Buellton and Solvang). The Cities of Guadalupe, Buellton and Solvang provide funding for the three Libraries located within their City Limits. In recent years the Board has increased library funding systemwide by including an annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to the per capita funding for all libraries. As a result, for fiscal year 2025-26, the amount is \$9.42 per capita (previously \$9.15), as well as earmarking Cannabis Tax Revenue (now replaced by General Funds) funding for County Branch Libraries, totaling \$627,419 (on-going), and a small County Branch Library Fund, \$86,400 (also on-going). The agreement also includes \$55,000 (on-going) for Orcutt rent and \$20,000 (on-going) for system-wide Black Gold costs.

Funding Challenges

Local governments have been the primary funders of California libraries since State funding for library operations was phased out in the early 2010s, leaving County and local government general funds as the sole funding service to sustain this important community resource. Local libraries within Santa Barbara County have faced chronic budget issues for over a decade. While the County has increased library funding over time, these increases must contend with increased costs in labor, overhead and services like digital materials, which include audiobooks, magazines, journals, music, videos and movies. In the case of digital materials, demand for this service is increasing while the fee structure paid by libraries for subscriptions has changed and become costlier and less flexible.

Libraries are also increasingly required to offer an increasing level of social services, often acting as de facto cooling centers and connecting residents to social services.

Library Advisory Committee

The Library Advisory Committee (LAC) was created by the Board of Supervisors and meets quarterly to review services and operations, and to make advisory recommendations. Zone Administrators submitted their draft budgets in March, which were subsequently discussed at LAC meetings. Staff recommend the one-time use of Small Library Funds in the amount of \$86,400 to cover costs associated with a budget shortfall at Montecito Library (\$50,000), operated by the City of Santa Barbara, and to the City of Santa Maria (\$8,900) and the City of Goleta (\$12,500) to provide book van services. Staff also recommends utilizing small library funds (\$15,000) to assist with a budget shortfall in Vandenberg Village.

The budget shortfall at Montecito Library is being driven by increased cost to salaries, benefits and digital materials. This additional funding is required to prevent a reduction in hours and programming. This is an interim recommendation for one year that provides additional time to identify a more suitable long-term solution. Staff is working with the City of Santa Barbara to install a book locker and a self-checkout machine at the Montecito branch, which will help maintain service levels. The locker is anticipated to be operational March 2026.

Goleta Valley Library ADA, Safety, and Building Improvements Project

The Goleta Valley Library was recently awarded a \$5.3 million Building Forward Grant toward a \$7.2 million infrastructure improvement project for the main library. These improvements include ADA path of travel and restrooms upgrades, safety and security installation and upgrades, lighting retrofits, door/window replacements, fascia repair and exterior paint. The City of Goleta submitted a request to the County to utilize AB1600 Goleta Library Impact Fees to help cover a portion of the project. Staff determined that the project aligns with intended use of the Development impact Fee and that the project would expand physical access to the facility and expand access to digital materials for all patrons of the zone including unincorporated Goleta Valley and Isla Vista. The

letter from the City of Goleta requesting library impact fees is attached along with the corresponding budget revision. The agreement includes a \$130,000 transfer toward the construction of this project.

Performance Measure:

The County has contracted with city libraries for over fifty years. The cities have met their goals of operational hours, book circulation, visitation, and internet use by patrons.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted:

Yes, during June Budget Hearings, the Board provided additional funding of \$119,900 reflective of a Consumer Price Index placed on the existing per capita Funding, raising the per capita funding to \$9.42 from \$9.15 for every Santa Barbara County resident. In Fiscal Year 2023-24, the Board also approved on-going budget expansions in the amount of \$75,000 to cover the Orcutt Library rent increase and Black Gold Cooperative Library System pension liability costs. Staff is recommending the Board approve the use of one-time Small Library Funds in the amount of \$86,400 to cover costs associated with a budget deficit at Montecito Library, Vandenberg Library and to the City of Santa Maria and the City of Goleta to provide book van services in these respective areas, the total amount of funding provided by the County pursuant to this agreement is \$5,292,814.

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund	\$ 5,147,814		
State			
Federal			
Fees	\$ 130,000		
Other:	\$ 15,000		
Total	\$ 5,292,814	\$ -	\$ -

Attachments:

Attachment A – Fiscal Year 2025-26 Countywide Library Annual Agreement with All Exhibits

Attachment B – Funding Request for Goleta Library Impact Fees

Attachment C – Budget Revision (BJE 0010921)

Authored by:

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