



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: September 19, 2023
Placement: Departmental Item
Estimated Time: 45 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department
Director: George Chapjian, Community Services Director (805) 568-2467
Contact Info: Ashley Watkins, Division Chief (805) 568-3514
SUBJECT: FY 23-24 Countywide Free Library System Annual Agreement

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Risk 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, 2023 through June 30, 2024, in the total amount not to exceed \$4,613,601;
- b) Direct staff to explore potential for the Isla Vista Community Services District to administer library services and receive County Per Capita funding for the Isla Vista area; 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 five Managing Cities (County Library Zone Administrators): Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, Goleta, Lompoc, and Santa Maria. Staff is also seeking Board direction on whether to further investigate the potential for the Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) to administer library services and receive County Per Capita funding for the Isla Vista area. Library services in Isla Vista are currently provided by the City of Goleta.

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 prevent the creation of County-operated duplicate establishments. 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 – FY 2023-24

Library Zones	Population Estimates (Source: CA State Librarian)	FY23-24 Per Capita (\$8.88)	Cannabis Funding for County Branch Libraries	County Branch/ Small Library Fund Allocations	FY23-24 Total Amount by Zone
Zone 1 - Santa Barbara	98,468	\$874,395	\$230,294	\$50,000	\$1,154,689
Zone 2 - Lompoc	59,303	\$526,611	\$40,033	-	\$566,644
Zone 3 - Santa Maria	157,161	\$1,395,589	\$191,801	\$8,900	\$1,596,290
Zone 4 - Goleta	109,090	\$968,719	\$167,928	\$12,500	\$1,149,147
Zone 5 - Carpinteria	16,535	\$146,831	-	-	\$146,831
Unallocated	-	\$1,455	\$41,844	\$42,400	\$85,699
Total	440,557	\$3,913,600	\$671,900	\$113,800	\$4,699,300

The County of Santa Barbara funds every library in the County, including the five City Municipal Libraries (Santa Barbara Main/Eastside, Goleta Valley, Lompoc, Santa Maria, and Carpinteria) and eight County Branches. The County allocates annual per capita funding to each of the library Zones using population figures certified by the California State Library and State Department of Finance. Approximately 65% or \$3.0M of the \$4.6M in funding goes towards the five City Municipal Libraries. The remaining approximately 35% of funding goes towards the eight County Branch Libraries (Montecito, Vandenburg Village, Cuyama, Guadalupe, Los Alamos, Orcutt, Buellton and Solvang). The Cities of Guadalupe, Buellton and Solvang provide significant funding for the three County Branch Libraries located within their respective incorporated City Limits. In recent years the County Board of Supervisors has increased library funding systemwide by including an annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to the per capita funding for all libraries, currently \$8.88 per capita (previously \$8.34), as well as earmarking Cannabis Tax Revenue (now replaced by General Funds) funding for County Branch Libraries, totaling \$671,900 (on-going), and a small County Branch Library Fund, \$113,800 (also on-going).

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. Local libraries within Santa Barbara County have faced chronic budget shortfalls for over a decade. While the County has increased library funding over time, these increases are being outstripped by increased costs in labor, overhead and services like digital materials, which includes 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 being required to offer an increasing level of social services, often acting as de facto cooling centers and connecting residents to social services available via the Cities or County. The City of Santa Barbara currently has a contract with the Family Services Agency to support this work. The County, in partnership with the Cities, are moving forward with a plan to conduct polling to assess voter preferences around a possible new tax that would support libraries. However, if the outcome is unsuccessful, additional library funding will need to be identified to prevent a reduction in services and hours.

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 the March 15th and June 21st LAC meetings. Staff recommends the use of Small Library Funds in the amount of \$71,400 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 expand book van services to additional County unincorporated areas on a one-year pilot basis. The budget shortfall at Montecito Library is being driven by increased cost to salaries, benefits and digital materials. To address the budget shortfall at the Montecito Library, staff also recommends an additional \$25,000 in Cannabis Funding (now replaced by General Funds) be allocated. This additional funding is required to prevent a reduction in hours and programming. This is an interim recommendation that provides additional time to identify a more suitable long-term solution.

At the June 21st LAC meeting, representatives from the IVCSA provided public comments expressing their interest in administering library services and receiving County per capita Funding for the Isla Vista

area. Staff from the City of Goleta was present at the meeting and expressed their support for IVCS D's request. The City of Goleta currently administers library services for Isla Vista in exchange for \$226,094 in County per capita funding. The LAC subsequently voted to make a recommendation to the County to begin exploring this option.

IVCS D was created in 2016 with the passage of Measure E, which provided the ability to deliver services, including library services, to residents. If IVCS D were to assume the provision of library services in this area, creation of a new Library Zone may be required. Additionally, County per capita funding in the amount of \$226,094 may need to be redirected from the City of Goleta to IVCS D. IVCS D may also need to identify additional funding sources to support this effort. Measure R was passed in 2018, establishing a utility-user tax to empower the IVCS D with its own source of revenue which could be a possible source of library funding.

Fiscal Analysis:

Budgeted: Yes, during June Budget Hearings, the Board provided additional funding of \$122,302 reflective of a Consumer Price Index placed on the existing per capita Funding, raising the per capita funding to \$8.88 from \$8.34 for every Santa Barbara County resident. The Board also approved 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 Small Library Funds in the amount of \$71,400 to cover costs associated with a budget deficit at Montecito Library and to the City of Santa Maria and the City of Goleta to expand book van services in these respective areas, and an additional \$25,000 in cannabis funding to the City of Santa Barbara for the Montecito Library. The total amount of funding provided by the County Board of Supervisors towards the 2023-24 Countywide Free Library System Annual Agreement is \$4,613,601.

Performance Measures:

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

Special Instructions:

- 1) Please send a copy of the minute order to Eva Camarena at ecamarena@countyofsb.org.
- 2) Please execute 7 (seven) original copies of Attachment 1 and return 6 (six) original copies to Eva Camarena, CSD Executive Assistant, ext. 82467.
- 3) Upon execution by all the City Councils the Community Services Department will return a fully executed agreement to the Clerk of the Board for retention in the record.

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – FY2023-24 Countywide Library Annual Agreement with All Exhibits
- Attachment 2 – PowerPoint Presentation