



April 2, 2018

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County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Attn: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors Meeting of April 3, 2018, Agenda Item 18-00232 (Library Service Delivery Consultant update)

Dear Board of Supervisors,

We are writing as two Goleta City Council members who serve on the City of Goleta's Ad Hoc Library Committee (Committee), requesting your consideration the following comments included in this letter, as they pertain to the Library Service Delivery Consultant update item scheduled at your April 3 meeting. We are writing on behalf of the Committee because we have not yet had a chance to discuss these points with the full Goleta City Council in a public meeting.

Thank you for directing the undertaking of a study by Management Partners that analyzed the current library service delivery system and funding model within Santa Barbara County. The City of Goleta is appreciative of the County's efforts to conduct this study, and in particular, the hard work of the Community Services Department and Management Partners to solicit and incorporate feedback from all the stakeholders involved.

As you probably know, the City of Goleta previously provided comments and suggested corrections on the March 14, 2018 draft report from Management Partners, some of which were incorporated into the consultant's final report. While the final report contains a few items we respectfully view as inaccurate, overall the City supports the consultant's five recommendations as outlined in the Agenda Letter for Item 18-00232 for the Tuesday, April 3, 2018 Board meeting.

In particular, we agree with the possible future formation of a Joint Powers Authority to deliver library services. In particular, our Committee strongly supports Recommendation 2 to assign a new Zone 4 for the

Goleta Library that would include Buellton, Solvang, Eastern Goleta Valley, Community Service Area 3, Isla Vista, and Hope Ranch. We are excited about the opportunity to form a partnership with the Isla Vista Community Services District (CSD), so that library services to that community, including its student population and the families and individuals that live there, can be improved.

City staff has been in communication with the Interim General Manager of the Isla Vista CSD, and is making preparations to deliver an initial outreach and informational event in Isla Vista this summer for the Goleta Library. Simultaneously, the City of Goleta also recognizes that the large geographic area served by its library means that issues of access may need to be addressed in several communities, and not just in Isla Vista.

Looking ahead to the future of a Zone 4 geographical service area, we understand that there may be interest from the Buellton and Solvang libraries to operate under Goleta management. The Committee is open to this idea. As we're sure your Board can appreciate, we want to stress that time and research is first needed on the City's part, to investigate various feasibility considerations, including financial impacts, questions pertaining to management structure, and questions of representation that could have implications for the Goleta Library Board of Trustees.


Regarding the consultant's Recommendation 3 to develop a County per capita funding formula based on equity principles, the City would like to receive clarification and projections on the potential impacts that such a funding formula would have on the Goleta Library and other libraries. However, the City generally agrees that the principles proposed - socio-economic factors, geographic location/remoteness, literacy rates, and contributions from other sources - are important factors to consider. Further, the City is thankful for the financial support that the County of Santa Barbara has continued to provide to all its libraries over the years.

We are also in general agreement with the three recommendations set forth by the Library Advisory Committee (LAC) at their March 21, 2018 meeting (as summarized in Agenda Item 18-00232). Regarding the LAC's third recommendation that the Goleta Library Board of Trustees have proportional representation based on the area the Goleta Library serves, we support this idea and we are in the process of determining how best to achieve proportional representation in advance of the recruitment process for the Board members. City staff had a recent discussion with the Isla Vista CSD on how to possibly incorporate representation from their community, which could serve as one of the three City of Goleta appointments.

Overall, as we look to the future of funding for libraries in Santa Barbara County, it will be critical to investigate possible revenue generation options that agencies can pursue, such as new tax measures, that can help alleviate the continued funding struggles our libraries continue to face.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the topics included in this letter. We would also like to take this time to recognize and thank your Board for your continued dedication to tackling the issues that our libraries all share.

Sincerely,



Paula Perotte, Mayor



Michael T. Bennett, City Council Member