

Ramirez, Angelica

Special Issues - Library Services

From: Gaby Edwards <gaby_edwards@cate.org>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 9:33 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Please read publicly at the meeting (re library budgets) THANK YOU!

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To: our SB County Supervisors
From: the Friends of the Carpinteria Library Board of Directors:

In these difficult times, we urge you to maintain the highest possible levels of support for all of our county libraries. Like many, our Carpinteria library is vital to our high percentage of community members who do not have computers or wifi at home. When libraries and schools reopen and residents are able to go back to work, libraries will provide even more critical help to those desperately seeking job information and tech support.

How ironic it is that along the current health and economic crises, the past year has also brought promising new developments for the future of our county libraries. The Library Advisory Committee and its Ad Hoc committees have worked tirelessly (even in recent chaotic weeks) to craft benchmarks for basic small library services and identify costs for these services. They have also worked out a formula for more equitable funding of our smaller libraries – a concept long overdue. Here in Carpinteria, the library has been the beneficiary of the first fiscal year of our city's Measure X revenue. What a difference that has made after years of wondering if we could keep the doors open.

So while we fear for the immediate future of our libraries, we are confident in the long term, thanks to our county's and our city's commitment to the sustainability of our free public libraries, cornerstones of democracy.

Thank you.

Gaby Edwards, chair
Jean Bailard, vice chair
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