



# County of Santa Cruz

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## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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SECOND DISTRICT

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JEFF ALMQUIST  
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 12/14/99

December 8, 1999

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: 2000 LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Dear Members of the Board:

As Board members are aware, Supervisor Beautz and I serve as our Board's representatives to the Library Joint Powers Board. The Library Board, in a similar effort to the County, discussed and approved seven legislative proposals which we believe would be appropriate to incorporate in the County's legislative program for 2000. Two of the measures, the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2000 and the return of ERAF funds, are already included in the 2000 Legislative Program adopted by the Board on November 16, 1999. However, the Library Board would like the County to also include support for the following legislative items in our County Legislative Program:

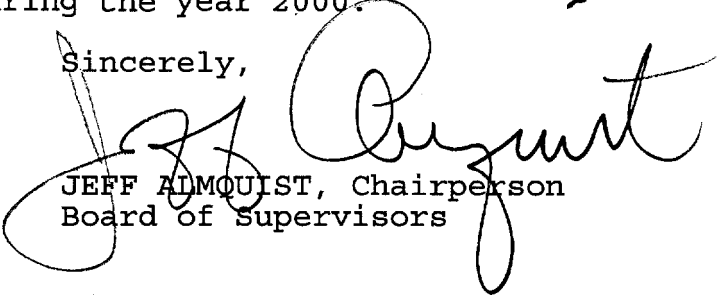
- California Public Library Fund
- Library of California Funding
- California Library Services Act Funding
- Library Services and Technology Act Funding
- Telecommunications: Discounted rates for libraries

The attached information provides a discussion about each item listed above.

December 8, 1999  
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While I realize that the meeting with our State and federal representatives will occur prior to our Board's ability to act on these matters, I recommend that the Board direct the Chairperson to write to the appropriate federal and State representatives and ask for their further support for the items requested by the Library Joint Powers Board during the year 2000.

Sincerely,



JEFF ALMQUIST, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors

JA:ted  
Attachments

cc: County Administrative Office

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December 7, 1999

TO: Members, Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

FR: Jeff Almquist, Chair

RE: 2000 Library Legislative Program

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached library legislative program for 2000, and that it actively support these measures by including them in its larger legislative program for the year.

## BACKGROUND

The Library Joint Powers Board unanimously adopted the seven library legislative proposals attached at its meeting on December 6, 1999. Five are proposals for State legislation, one is a Federal measure, and one is both State and Federal:

### State:

- California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2000 [Proposition 14]
- California Public Library Fund-PLF
- Library of California Funding
- California Library Services Act Funding
- Return Local Property Tax Dollars and/or Cap the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF)

### Federal:

- Library Services and Technology Act Funding

### State and Federal:

- Telecommunications: Discounted Rates for Libraries

The California Library Association will be working hard on all these measures. However it adds tremendous clout if the lobbyists for the city and county organizations add their

voices to those of CLA's. During 1999 the Board of Supervisors and each County City joined comparable jurisdictions across California in advocating passage of SB 3 (the Construction and Renovation Bond Act), as well as full funding for other library measures. The result was the best legislative year for public libraries in many decades.

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## 2000 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT REQUEST

**CONTACT: ANNE M. TURNER, DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES**  
**831-420-5612**

**SUMMARY TITLE: LIBRARY SERVICES & TECHNOLOGY ACT FUNDING**

**PROPOSAL:** Support continued funding for the Library Services and Technology Act as part of the federal budget.

**PRESENT LAW:** The Library Services and Technology Act (U.S. Code, Title 20, Chapter 16) was enacted in September 1996 to succeed the Library Services and Construction Act. The LSCA has been the primary source of supplemental federal funding for California public libraries and systems and the LSTA will continue in this role.

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:** The Santa Cruz City-County Library System and the Watsonville Public Library have received substantial support from LSCA since its enactment. Programs include information and referral projects, literacy, acquisition of Spanish language materials, provision of internet access to the public, and creation of new services for teenagers.

LSTA maintains this support. Continuing federal support of public libraries is an important national effort.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Additional grant funds will be available to both libraries for innovative and experimental programs.

There are no direct local costs.

AMT:JLEGREQ.LSTA  
11/24/99



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**2000 STATE & FEDERAL  
LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT REQUEST**

**CONTACT: ANNE M. TURNER, DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES**  
831-420-5612

**SUMMARY TITLE: TELECOMMUNICATIONS: DISCOUNTED RATES  
FOR LIBRARIES**

**PROPOSAL:** Support programs at both the State and Federal levels which guarantee for libraries the largest possible discount in rates for telecommunications services, internal connections, and access to the Internet.

**PRESENT LAW:** The California Teleconnect Fund, administered by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), provides a discount in telecommunications services for all libraries and schools statewide. The federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 also provides for "discounted rates for schools and libraries" under the administration of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:** Both the City-County Library System and the Watsonville Public Library need to provide equitable access to information on the Internet and other electronic resources. The public now expects and demands current and extensive information, far beyond what is provided in print form. Providing this access requires significant, and rapidly escalating telecommunications expenditures.

In FY 1998-99 both the Santa Cruz and Watsonville public libraries received state and federal discounts.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The state program provides a 50% discount for libraries and schools. Until the FCC finalizes its national program, the full impact is not known but discounted telecommunications rates could result in savings from currently budgeted amounts, or reduction in the rate of growth in telecommunications costs.

AMT:JLEGREQ.TELECOMM: 1 1/24/99



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**1999 STATE LEGISLATIVE  
SUPPORT REQUEST**

**CONTACT: ANNE M. TURNER, DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES**  
**831-420-5612**

**SUMMARY TITLE: CALIFORNIA READING AND LITERACY IMPROVE-  
MENT AND PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION BOND  
ACT OF 2000**

**PROPOSAL:** To support Proposition 14, a bond act which would provide \$350 million in grant funds to cities, counties, and special districts for land acquisition, design, construction, and rehabilitation of public library facilities. The bond will be submitted to voters on the March 7, 2000 ballot.

**PRESENT LAW:** The California Education Code, Sections 19950-1 19981 (Title 1, Division 1, Part II, Chapter 11) is known as the California Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 1988. This law was enacted as a result of a successful bond measure in 1988 (Proposition 85). Funds from this bond act are exhausted. This new bond measure will provide necessary funding for building and renovating public libraries.

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:** Through a State Library needs assessment, library jurisdictions throughout the state identified the need for the construction or renovation of over 425 library facilities with an estimated cost of \$2 billion beyond the fund provided by the 1988 law.

Senator Richard Rainey, Senator Bruce McPherson, and others carried the bond measure in the 1999 Legislative Session. Comparable legislation failed in the 1998 session because the Legislature placed a higher priority on passage of a school bond measure. This year the Legislature and the Governor recognized the compelling need to begin rebuilding the public library infrastructure in the state by passing SB3 and placing it on the March 2000 ballot. Grants would be awarded on a competitive basis and require a 35% local match to qualify. First priority will be given to joint use projects in which the agency that operates the library and one or more school districts have a cooperative agreement. The definition of cooperative agreement will be determined during the regulation-setting period but it is anticipated to be broad based in its scope. Second priority will be given to all other public library projects.



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## 2000 STATE LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT REQUEST

**CONTACT:** ANNE M. TURNER, DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES  
831-420-5612

**SUMMARY TITLE:** CALIFORNIA PUBLIC LIBRARY FUND--PLF

**PROPOSAL:** That the Library Joint Powers Board continue to support full funding for the California Public Library Fund (PLF) as part of the State budget process.

**PRESENT LAW:** Education Code Sections 1801 O-1 803 1 provide for a Public Library Fund to fund public libraries on a per capita matching basis with local public library jurisdictions. The per capita funding basis is to be adjusted annually as per the provisions of Education Code Section 18020.

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:** The State has never fully funded the Public Library Fund. In 1999 the Legislature approved an increase of \$20 million; the Governor cut the amount by \$2 million, providing a total of \$56870,000 or 81% of full funding. The advantages of this funding source are that the funds come directly to the Library without the cost and workload requirements of grant applications. Additionally, funds can be used for basic and general library operations and staffing, thereby providing needed flexibility. The County has supported full funding for PLF in past years.

In FY 1999-2000 the Santa Cruz Library System will receive \$359,886, and the Watsonville Library \$66,043. With full funding, the amounts could be as much as \$481,341 and \$81,535 respectively.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** No local negative fiscal impact is known at this time. The positive impact is noted above.

AMT:JLEGREQ.PLF  
11/24/99





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## 2000 STATE LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT REQUEST

**CONTACT:** ANNE M. TURNER, DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES  
831-420-5612

### SUMMARY TITLE: LIBRARY OF CALIFORNIA FUNDING

**PROPOSAL:** Support increased funding for The Library of California, a state law passed in 1998 which will provide structure and funding for the networking of various types of libraries (including public, special, academic, and school) in California.

**CURRENT LAW:** Education Code Sections 18800-1 8870 (Title 1, Division 1, Part 11, Chapter 4.5, Articles 1-8) provides for resource sharing among libraries of all types.

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**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:** Legislation to network California's libraries of all types electronically and through various cooperative programs was signed into law in 1998 and is popularly referred to as "The Library of California." The proposed multitype library network will link and serve users of California's 8,000 libraries of all types: academic, public, school, and special. Services to be provided to California residents through such networks include access to libraries via a basic telecommunications infrastructure, and access to library materials from all types of libraries. This legislation updates, expands, and replaces the California Library Services Act (CLSA) of 1977, which only applies to public libraries.

The 1998-99 state budget provided \$5 million for planning and start-up funds. Approximately \$30 million is needed now to initiate statewide services.

Both the Santa Cruz City-County Library System and the Watsonville Public Library have been active participants in the resource-sharing activities of the Library of California's predecessor agency, the Monterey Bay Area Cooperative Library System.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There should be no direct cost to libraries; cost savings due to electronic resource sharing may be anticipated in future years.

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**2000 STATE LEGISLATIVE  
SUPPORT REQUEST**

**CONTACT: ANNE M. TURNER, DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES**  
831-420-5612

**SUMMARY TITLE: CALIFORNIA LIBRARY SERVICES ACT FUNDING**

**PROPOSAL:** Support for continued and adequate funding of the California Library Services Act as part of the State Budget.

**PRESENT LAW:** California Education Code, Sections 18700-1 8767 is the California Library Services Act. The services provided as per these code sections need continued funding and support.

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:** The California Library Services Act provides State support for public library services via consultation, reimbursement for certain **resource-**sharing expenses, the interlibrary loan program, and creation and maintenance of a state-wide catalog database. State CLSA staff also administers federal grant programs aimed at public libraries. Both the Santa Cruz City-County Library System and the Watsonville Public Library have been recipients of CLSA services and monies. The program, a very small one in State budget **terms**, should be continued and augmented by an additional \$3.7 million for interlibrary loan services and \$1.4 million for literacy projects.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Loss of funds from the **California** Library Services Act would place a political burden on local jurisdictions to secure replacement revenue.

AMT:JLEGREQ.CLSA  
1/24/1999



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## 2000 STATE LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT REQUEST

**CONTACT: ANNE M. TURNER, DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES**  
**831-420-5612**

**SUMMARY TITLE: RETURN LOCAL PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS  
AND/OR CAP THE EDUCATIONAL REVENUE  
AUGMENTATION FUND (ERAF)**

**PROPOSAL:** Support legislative efforts which would return local property tax dollars to meet State budget requirements and/or place a cap on the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF).

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:** In FY 1992-93 the State shifted local property tax dollars to fill the gap in the State budget caused by the downturn of the economy. In addition, legislators established the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF), which diverts local taxes on an annual basis, so the State can meet its obligation to provide 40% of the general fund commitment to education, as required by Proposition 98. While all local government entities have felt the effect of this shift, public libraries have been hardest hit in the years since 1992-93. To date, it is estimated that statewide the impact of this **shift** totals \$80 to \$100 million per year.

As a result of the shift, libraries across the state have been forced to cut their hours of service, reduce the amount spent for books and other library materials, and curtail services and programs for all residents, particularly children and youth. While the burgeoning population is placing increasing demands on libraries for services, the reduction in revenues has severely hampered their ability to meet needs.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The impact would depend upon the amount returned and limitations placed on the cap.

AMT:LEGREQ.ERAF  
11/24/99