



County of Santa Cruz

0121

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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SECOND DISTRICT

MARDI WORMHOUDT
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TONY CAMPOS
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JEFF ALMQUIST
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 1/29/02

January 15, 2002

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

RE: 2002 LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Dear Members of the Board:

As Board members are aware, Supervisor Almquist and I serve as our Board's representatives to the Library Joint Powers Board. The Library Board, in an effort similar to the County, discussed and approved five legislative proposals which we believe would be appropriate to incorporate into the County's 2002 County Legislative Program adopted on November 20, 2001. One of those proposals, the return of local property tax dollars, has been an ongoing item in the County's Legislative Program. However, the Library Board would also like the County to include support for the following items in our 2002 Legislative Program as outlined in the supporting documentation:

- California Public Library Fund
- Library of California Funding
- Library Services and Technology Act Funding
- Telecommunications: Discounted Rates for Libraries

I believe that our community would benefit by the inclusion of the legislative priorities identified by the Library Joint Powers Board. Accordingly, I recommend that the Board direct the Chairperson to write to our State and federal representatives and request their further support for the 2002 Library Legislative program identified by the Library Joint Powers Board.

Sincerely,

JANET K. BEAUTZ, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

JKB:ted
Attachments

cc: Anne Turner, Director of Libraries

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January 10, 2002

TO: Members, Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

FR: Supervisor Jan Beautz

RE: Adopt 2002 Library Legislative Program

RECOMMENDATION: That the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors adopt the attached library legislative program for 2002, 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 five library legislative proposals attached at its meeting on January 7, 2002. Three are proposals for State legislation, one is a Federal measure, and one is both State and Federal:

State:

- California Public Library Fund—PLF
 - Library of California Funding
 - Return Local Property Tax Dollars

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 the Association. The Library Joint Powers Board is therefore requesting support from each jurisdiction in Santa Cruz County.

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0123

2002 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 oppose continued cuts in the California Public Library Fund (PLF) as part of the State budget process.

PRESENT LAW: Education Code Sections 18010-18031 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 \$56,870,000 or 81% of full funding. In 2000 and 2001 the Legislature approved full funding in the budget which the Governor vetoed. Instead, allocations in 2001-02 to local libraries have been cut 24% from the 2000 level, and the Governor is proposing another cut.

In FY 2001-2002 the Santa Cruz Library System will receive \$272,363, down by more than \$84,000 from the previous year. The Watsonville Library has been cut to \$66,043. All Santa Cruz Library funds are allocated to the library materials budget; Watsonville uses the funds for improving operations and adding open hours.

One of the greatest advantages of PLF funding is that the money comes 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.

FISCAL IMPACT: No local negative fiscal impact. The positive impact is noted above.

AMT:GLEGPROG.PLF 12/21/01

Library Headquarters and System Services
1543 Pacific Avenue • Santa Cruz, California 95060 • (831) 420-5600



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2002 STATE LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT REQUEST

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

SUMMARY TITLE: LIBRARY OF CALIFORNIA FUNDING

PROPOSAL: Support continued 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 18800-18870 (Title 1, Division 1, Part 11, Chapter 4.5, Articles 1-8) provides for resource sharing among libraries of all types.

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 multitype library network links and serves users of California's 8,000 libraries of all types: academic, public, school, and special. Services include cooperative licensing agreements providing access to commercial databases used for reference service, basic telecommunications infrastructure, and access to library materials from all types of libraries.

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. Both are charter members of the successor Golden Gateway Library Network.

FISCAL IMPACT: There should be no direct cost to libraries; cost savings due to electronic resource sharing are anticipated.

AMT:GLEGPLOG.LOC
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2002 STATE LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT REQUEST

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

SUMMARY: RETURN LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES TO LOCAL JURISDICTIONS

PROPOSAL: Support legislative efforts that would return local property tax dollars used to meet State budget requirements, place a cap on the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF), or exempt County Special District Libraries from ERAF takings.

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. In FY 2001-02 the Santa Cruz Library loss was more than \$1.5 million.

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:GLEGPROG.ERAF
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**2002 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT REQUEST**

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

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

PROPOSAL: Support reauthorization and 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 continues in this role. The Act must be reauthorized this year.

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

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.

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12/21/01



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**2002 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 that 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 available in print form. Providing this access requires significant, and rapidly escalating telecommunications expenditures.

In FY 2001-02 both the Santa Cruz and Watsonville public libraries received state and federal discounts, enabling them to use the best communications technology to support their information services.

FISCAL IMPACT: The state program provides a 50% discount for libraries and schools. The FCC E-rate national program continues to be adjusted and it is virtually impossible to predict the full fiscal impact.

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