



County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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FIRST DISTRICT

ELLEN PIRIE
SECOND DISTRICT

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THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS
FOURTH DISTRICT

MARK W. STONE
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 1/24/06

January 19, 2006

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

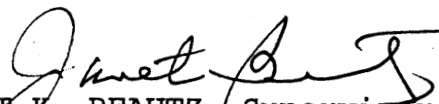
RE: 2006 LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Dear Members of the Board:

Attached is the Legislative Program for 2006 that has been adopted by the Library Joint Powers Board (LJPB). The LJPB is hoping that each jurisdiction in Santa Cruz County will also support these legislative priorities.

We believe that these legislative priorities would be of benefit to the community. Accordingly, we recommend that the Board direct the Chair to write to our state and federal representatives and request that in addition to the items identified in the 2006 County Legislative Program, they also lend their support to the items identified in the 2006 Library Legislative Program.

Sincerely,


JANET K. BEAUTZ, Supervisor
First District


MARK W. STONE, Supervisor
Fifth District

JKB/MWS:pmp
Attachments

cc: Anne M. Turner, Director of Libraries
County Administrative Office

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January 10, 2006

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TO: Members, Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

FR: Supervisor Jan Beautz

RE: Adopt 2006 Library Legislative Program

RECOMMENDATION: That the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors adopt the attached library legislative program for 2006, and that it actively support these measures by including them in its larger legislative program for the year.

BACKGROUND

The Library Joint Powers Authority Board adopted the seven library legislative proposals attached at its meeting on January 9, 2006. Three are proposals for State legislation, two for Federal, and two for State and Federal legislation.

State:

- California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2006
- California Public Library Foundation—PLF
- Support All Types of Libraries

Federal:

- Library Services and Technology Act Funding
- Confidentiality of Library Patron Records

State and Federal:

- Telecommunications: Discounted Rates for Libraries
- Open Access to Information In Any Format

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 Authority Board is therefore requesting support from each jurisdiction in Santa Cruz County.



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2006 STATE LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT REQUEST

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

TITLE: CALIFORNIA READING AND LITERACY IMPROVEMENT AND PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION BOND ACT OF 2006

SUMMARY: The Library Joint Powers Authority Board advocates passage of a statewide bond measure that would provide \$600 million to meet identified and developing library construction and renovation needs. The measure will be on the June 2006 ballot.

PRESENT LAW: In 2000 voters approved a California Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act that provided \$350,000,000 to be distributed in three grant cycles ending in early 2004. Only 25% of the projects submitted could be funded.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS: Statewide assessment sets the need for construction or renovation funds at more than four billion dollars: 600 projects comprising almost 12 million square feet. The new bond measure **would** award funds on a competitive basis with a required 35% local match. Unfunded applications from the Bond Act of 2000 would be given first priority, up to 50% of the total amount authorized. \$25 million would be made available for joint-use projects with schools. Library construction projects provide jobs and economic stimulus. Current construction is not keeping pace with technological need. Libraries provide necessary after-school programs for youth, a tenet of the Governor's commitment to quality school programs for K-12 students.

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

AMT:GLEGPROG. BOND
01/25/05

4



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2006 STATE LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT REQUEST

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

TITLE: CALIFORNIA PUBLIC LIBRARY FUND--PLF

SUMMARY: The Library Joint Powers Board advocates increased funding for the California Public Library Foundation (PLF) program and opposes any reductions beyond the 2005/06 budget level.

PRESENT LAW: Education Code Sections 18010-18031 provide for a Public Library Foundation fund for 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. The "Foundation" of the title does not refer to a legal entity, but rather to the State's obligation to share in the basic funding of public library services.

DISCUSSIONANALYSIS: The State has never fully funded the Public Library Fund, and the amounts approved by the Governor have steadily declined over the years. In 2000-01 the amount was \$56,870,000. By 2005-06 it had been reduced to roughly \$14.4 million. In other words, public libraries have taken a 75% cut in state funding since 2000-01. The Santa Cruz Library System expects to receive \$79,507 in FY 2005-06, down substantially from previous years. The Watsonville Library will receive only \$22,070. Were the program fully funded, these amounts would be more than \$480,000 and \$132,000 respectively. **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 general library operations thereby providing needed flexibility.

FISCAL IMPACT: Severe local negative fiscal impact as noted above.

AMT:GLEGPROG.PLF 12/23/05



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2006 STATE LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT REQUEST

CONTACT: ANNE M. TURNER, DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES
831420-5612

TITLE: SUPPORT ALL TYPES LIBRARIES

PROPOSAL: Encourage support for all types of libraries including public, academic, school, and special libraries, County law libraries, and the California State Library in order to promote resource sharing.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS: Effective library services to all the people of the State depend on resource sharing among all types of libraries. These include cooperative licensing agreements for access to commercial databases, basic telecommunications infrastructure, and access to library materials.

All types of libraries have been hit by budget cuts during the last decade. Legislation to network California's libraries electronically and through various cooperative programs was signed into law in 1998. It was never adequately funded, and was de-funded completely two years ago. School libraries were among the first programs to be cut by cash-starved local school districts. The State-funded university and community college libraries have been hard hit by funding cuts. Local law libraries are trapped in a funding mechanism that does not grow rapidly enough to meet their needs. And of course the Public Library Foundation program has been steadily under-funded since its inception.

Both the Santa Cruz City-County Library and the Watsonville Public Library have been active participants in the resource-sharing activities of the Monterey Bay Area Cooperative Library System, which includes members of every library type. Both are charter members of CALIFA, a service bureau providing discounts and access to shared resource.

FISCAL IMPACT: Cost savings result from sharing resources.

AMT:GLEGPROG.RES
12/23/05

6



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**2006 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT REQUEST**

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

TITLE: LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT FUNDING

PROPOSAL: The Library Joint Powers Authority Board advocates funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) of at least \$300 million.

DISCUSSIONIANALYSIS: The Library Services and Technology Act is the federal program that provides (through the State) grants to local libraries for Information access through technology and information empowerment through special services. Both the Santa Cruz and Watsonville libraries have used LSTA funds to experiment with various innovative projects. For example, the Library System's community information database was first created with grant funding. Our young adult services at the Garfield Park Branch were strengthened with LSTA funds. We have also used the LSTA program to provide graduate education tuition grants to six library employees and to purchase Spanish-language materials for the Bookmobile and other branches. The proposed FY 2007 budget for LSTA (which is located in the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services) is roughly \$210 million, but a 1% rescission is expected. Given local and state library funding cuts, substantially more federal library support is needed.

FISCAL IMPACT: Grants subsidize the regular budget.

AMT:GLEGPROG.LSTA
12/23/05



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2006 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT REQUEST

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

TITLE: CONFIDENTIALITY OF LIBRARY PATRON RECORDS

PROPOSAL: The Library Joint Powers Authority Board opposes any legislation that jeopardizes the confidentiality of library patron information, including certain provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.

DISCUSSIONANALYSIS: In 2003 the Library Joint Powers Authority Board adopted a resolution opposing the USA PATRIOT Act because it opposes any use of governmental power to suppress the free and open exchange of knowledge and information or to intimidate individuals exercising free inquiry. It believes that certain sections of the Act violate fundamental rights and liberties guaranteed by the United States Constitution, including the confidentiality of library patron information. At a minimum the act should be amended to exempt libraries from these "search and seizure" provisions, as well as other monitoring attempts such as direct access to library automation systems.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

AMT:GLEGPROG.USA
12/23/05



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**2006 STATE & FEDERAL
LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT REQUEST**

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

TITLE: TELECOMMUNICATIONS: DISCOUNTED RATES FOR LIBRARIES

SUMMARY: The Library Joint Powers Authority Board supports 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 2005-06 both the Santa Cruz and Watsonville public libraries expect to receive 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.

AMT:GLEGPROG.TELE
12/23/05



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**2006 STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT REQUEST**

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

TITLE: OPEN ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN ANY FORMAT

PROPOSAL: The Library Joint Powers Authority Board opposes legislation that jeopardizes open access to information.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS: Legislative proposals to limit access to library resources, including the Internet, are a direct contradiction to the philosophic underpinnings of our free public library system. The usual mechanisms proposed are electronic filtering devices, in the hope of weeding out pornographic and other sex sites. Limiting access to books and magazines based on their subject content has also been proposed. The Santa Cruz City-County Library System Joint Powers Authority Board and the library staff are as concerned as anyone that children not be exposed to pornographic Internet sites or other material with age-inappropriate sexual content. The staff makes every effort to assist parents in teaching children how to use the library resources effectively, and it closely monitors adult compliance with rules for Internet use. However, the Board and staff believe that filtering in a library setting is an ineffective method of blocking pornography that also blocks access to needed information. Absent industry-wide standards, only individual choice is a suitable "filter."

FISCAL IMPACT: The Board's decision in 2001 not to comply with the federal Child Internet Protection Act, which mandates filtering in order to receive federal technology grants, has so far resulted in no funding losses.

AMT:GLEGPROG.OPE
01/10/06