

DRAFT LETTER

September 9, 2013

The Honorable Lois Wolk
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax at (916) 323-2304

Dear Senator Wolk:

Thank you for introducing SCA 7, the constitutional measure that seeks to reduce the local vote threshold for special library taxes and construction bonds from the current two-thirds vote to 55%.

Due to the economic troubles of the past few years, cities, counties and special districts throughout the State have been challenged in their support for essential local government services. Libraries have seen budgets reduced significantly, even as usage and demand for services increased. Here in Santa Barbara County, the funding for libraries has decreased significantly from previous years. The County Library System has been forced to make difficult decisions about reducing hours and services. The need for library services continues to grow as children, students, families, and seniors depend on public libraries for homework help, literacy programs, computer access and other resources.

The enactment of SCA 7 would enable the County to have a steady source of funding for our Libraries separate from the County general fund if the citizens vote to make it a priority. Recently, the Community Services Department of Santa Barbara County implemented an online and paper library survey to the County community to gather information on library services. Out of the 935 library patrons, 54% believe the libraries need to be open more hours. Over the next two years, the community would like to see more evening hours, weekday hours, weekend hours and extra copies of bestselling books. This cannot be possible without the help of SCA 7.

You have been a champion for the California library community, and we appreciate your continuing support of public libraries and public library funding in California. Your hard work makes a difference in the quality of library service we are able to provide. We will certainly commit to assisting you in your efforts to make it easier for local governments to raise funds for public libraries by lowering the vote requirement for local library bonds and special taxes from two-thirds to 55%.

Sincerely,

Salud Carbajal
Chair, Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara

**LIBRARY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

Members

1st District Representative
Patricia Manuras

2nd District Representative
Claire B. VanBlaricum

3rd District Representative
Neil Baker

4th District Representative
Barbara Raggio

5th District Representative
Laura Selken

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Jean Bailard

CSA 3 Representative
Pamela Holst

Buellton Representative
Judith Dale

Goleta Representative
Margaret Connell

Guadalupe Representative
Carl Kraemer

Lompoc Representative
Alice Down

Santa Barbara Representative
VACANT

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Solvang Representative
Shirley Stacy

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Ashlee Chavez

Santa Barbara Library Director
Irene Macias

Santa Maria Library Director
Mary Housel

**Board of Supervisors
Representative**

3rd District Supervisor
Doreen Farr

County Staff

ACEO
Renee Bahl

Community Services Director
Herman Parker

Administrative Professional
Jessica Rauch

ACTION SUMMARY

June 19, 2013

**Solvang Courtroom
1745 Mission Drive
Solvang, CA 93463**

Meeting officially convened at 10:07AM.

Roll Call

Members Present: Patricia Manuras, Claire VanBlaricum, Neil Baker, Laura Selken, Jean Bailard, Judith Dale, Barbara Raggio, Pamela Holst, Margaret Connell.

Members Absent: Alice Down, Shirley Stacy.

Directors Present: Ashlee Chavez, Irene Macias and Mary Housel.

County Staff Present: Herman Parker and Jessica Rauch.

Other Representatives: Margaret Esther, City of Santa Barbara Public Library; Maureen Theobald, interested in City of Santa Maria seat and Black Gold Director.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

- I. Meeting Called to Order: by Chair, Supervisor Doreen Farr.
- II. Roll Call: Committee Members Down and Stacy were absent.
- III. Welcome New Members
 - i. *Laura Selken – 5th District*
 - ii. *Pamela Holst – CSA 3*
 - iii. *Margaret Connell – City of Goleta*
- IV. Public Comment: None.
- V. Approval of Minutes of March 20, 2013.

ACTION: A motion was made by VanBlaricum and seconded by Dale to approve the minutes of March 20, 2013 with revisions. Motion passed.

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STANDARD AGENDA

1. SCA 7 Report – *Mary Housel*

Mary Housel reported that SCA 7 was heard June 18th with three other amendments. The Senate Panel referred the measures to the Senate Rule Committee for more consideration. It did pass out of the Senate Rule Committee and is now going to the Committee on Rules. If passes, it will go to vote on the November 2014 ballot.

ACTION: A motion was made by Dale and seconded by Selken to approve the SCA 7 support letter from Supervisor Carbajal with recommended changes from the Committee.
Motion passed.

ACTION: A motion was made by Bailard and seconded by Manuras to approve Claire VanBlaricum to write a letter of support on behalf of the Library Advisory Committee.
Motion passed.

2. Cuyama Library Grand Opening Video

Staff presented a video of the Cuyama Library Grand Opening. The event was well coordinated and well attended.

3. Old Business

The Committee asked about the 13-14 Library Agreement and when it is coming forward for review. Staff is still working on the agreement and adding the new funding that was delegated to libraries by the Board of Supervisors during the Budget hearings. Staff will bring it forward to this committee at the next meeting. The Committee thanked Supervisor Farr for the Board support.

4. Library Directors Zone Updates

i. *Zone 1 – Irene Macias*

Ms. Macias thanked the Board of Supervisors for the extra library funding.

A draft of how the extra funds will be spent is as follows:

- Central Library – enhance book budget and keep grant funded position.
- Solvang Library – adding \$8,000 to book budget and adding a couple of hours to be able to open at 10AM.
- Carpinteria Library – increase book budget from \$18,000 to \$31,000.
- Montecito Library – minimize the use of reserves.

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- Goleta Library – adding \$40,000 to book budget and \$32,000 to capital improvement needs.

Santa Barbara City Council agreed to additional funding for the Central Library, which allowed for a part-time librarian to become full-time and gave an additional \$43,000 for the book budget. The City of Solvang also increased library funding from \$74,000 to \$88,000.

Zone 1 received two grants: IMLS to help with the summer reading program and \$15,000 from the MEA grant for the community book club.

Supervisor Farr asked the Friends of the Solvang Library if they thought the draft of how to spend the extra funds was sufficient. The Friends would like to see the Solvang Library open at 10AM. Children’s story time starts when the library opens at 11AM and it hurts attendance.

ii. Zone 2 – Ashlee Chavez

A draft of how the extra funds will be spent is as follows:

- Vandenberg Village Library – reduce use of reserves and need for fundraising and also maintain the current service level. The Friends group has raised \$17,000.
- Buellton Library – reduce use of reserves and maintain current service level.
- Lompoc Library – would like to be open another 8 hours and hire extra help. The extra funds will not stop the 1.5 FTE layoffs.
 - Supervisor Farr asked if the Lompoc City Council approved any additional funding. Ms. Chavez did request more funds, especially for the Literacy Program, which is in serious trouble. However, the City Council did not approve the funding.
 - Summer reading program started and there has been great attendance. There is also a new book club called “Young at Heart” that caters to adults who like to read teen books.
 - Three capital projects that have been completed: the roof has been redone, shelves have been stabilized for seismic safety and the parking lot has been resurfaced.

Zone 2 received two grants: California State Library Grant that will help first graders get a library card and Created Equal America’s Civil Rights Struggle. This grant funds guest speakers to come to the library to talk about the Civil Rights Movement.

There has not been much progress on the Charlotte’s Web Book Mobile; staff is still working on the legal documents.

The literacy program has not been funded for this year. Staff is going to work with the community to see how it can run on a smaller scale. Supervisor Farr asked what the budget is for this program, which is

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\$26,000. She suggested contacting the ORFALA Foundation, the Santa Barbara Foundation and Fourth District Supervisor Adam.

iii. Zone 3 – Mary Housel

Ms. Housel thanked the Board of Supervisors for the extra library funding. She has not figured out how to use the extra funds, but will be looking at what the community asked for in the survey, which were more hours, staff and materials.

The Cuyama Library has been moved successfully. Black Gold, City and Library staff helped move everything efficiently and effectively. A \$2,000 donation was received from E&B Natural Resources in Cuyama.

Circulation in all the Zone 3 Libraries has increased. The Main Library has increased 3.5%, Orcutt Library has increased 8.8%, Guadalupe Library has increased 43.5% and Cuyama Library has increased 36.4%.

August 24th is the 5th birthday of the new Santa Maria Library. Staff will be having a little party that all donors have been invited to.

The Guadalupe City Council will continue to fund the library facility rental, but has asked the Santa Maria Library to be in charge of handling the agreement.

One issue the Santa Maria Library has been facing is serving foster children in libraries. Many foster children come in with foster parents to get a new card; however, their previous card has fines from lost or not returned books.

5. Member Reports/Roundtable Discussions

Patricia Manuras visited the Montecito Library. 1/3 of the Montecito Library's budget comes from public funds. If anything could be improved to this facility, it would be moving the History Committee so the Friends of the Library could have a book store. The History Committee would like to move into the historic carriage house in Manning Park.

Jean Bailard reported that the Carpinteria Library is still in the process of refurbishing the multipurpose room. The City also extended the bookstore lease.

Judith Dale reported that the Buellton City Council increased their funding to the Buellton Library; however, this library is in desperate need of a new facility.

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Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: A motion was made by ? and seconded by ? to adjourn the June 19, 2013 Library Advisory Committee meeting.

Adjourned at 11:46AM

The next Library Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 18, 2013 from 10:00AM-Noon at the Solvang Courtroom, 1745 Mission Drive, Solvang, CA. To place an item on the agenda, please contact Jessica Rauch at (805) 568-2467 at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting date.