

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

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

City Representatives

Carpinteria Representative
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

Santa Maria Representative
VACANT

Solvang Representative
Shirley Stacy

Library Directors

Lompoc Library Director
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

AGENDA

June 19, 2013

Solvang Courtroom
1745 Mission Drive
Solvang, California 93463

10:00 AM

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

- I. Meeting Called to Order: *by Chair, Supervisor Doreen Farr.*
- II. Roll Call: *by Jessica Rauch*
- III. Welcome New Members
 - i. *Laura Selken – 5th District*
 - ii. *Pamela Holst – CSA 3*
 - iii. *Margaret Connell – City of Goleta*
- IV. Public Comment: *Public Comment period is set aside to allow public testimony on items not on today's agenda. The time allocated to each speaker will be set at the discretion of the Chair.*
- V. Minutes: The minutes of March 20, 2013 will be considered for approval.

STANDARD AGENDA

1. SCA 7 Report – *Mary Housel*
2. Cuyama Library Grand Opening Video
3. Old Business
4. Library Directors Zone Updates
 - i. *Zone 1 – Irene Macias*
 - ii. *Zone 2 – Ashlee Chavez*
 - iii. *Zone 3 – Mary Housel*
5. Member Reports/Roundtable Discussions

Adjourn.

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 two week prior to the scheduled meeting date.

MINUTES

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 20, 2013

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ACTION SUMMARY

March 20, 2013

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

Meeting officially convened at 10:12AM.

Roll Call

Members Present: Patricia Manuras, Claire VanBlaricum, Neil Baker, Laura Selken, Jean Bailard, Judith Dale, Alice Down, and Shirley Stacy.

Members Absent: Barbara Raggio, Pamela Holst, and Carl Kraemer.

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, and Margret Connell, interested in City of Goleta seat.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

- I. Meeting Called to Order: by Supervisor Farr.
- II. Roll Call: Committee Members Raggio, Holst and Kraemer were absent.
- III. Welcome New Members
 - i. *Laura Selken – 5th District*
- IV. Public Comment: None.
- V. Approval of Minutes of December 12, 2012.

ACTION: A motion was made by VanBlaricum and seconded by Dale to approve the minutes of December 12, 2012 with the following revisions:

- Corrected the spelling of Shirley Boydston, Claire VanBlaricum and Laura Selken.
- Added “since 2009” to the end of V. Member Reports/Roundtable Discussions, third sentence.

Motion passed.

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STANDARD AGENDA

1. Cuyama Library Construction Project – *General Services*

ACTION: Todd Morrison of General Services gave a presentation to the Committee on the Cuyama Library Construction Project.

2. Santa Ynez Library Renovations – *Shirley Stacy*

ACTION: A motion was made by VanBlaricum moved and seconded by Dale to approve the Santa Ynez Library Renovations.

As a note, the library will be closed for about a month. Everything will be properly secure when the renovation is occurring.

3. Online Survey Results – *Herman Parker*

ACTION: The Library Advisory Committee had the following comments on the Library Survey results:

Claire VanBlaricum was pleased with the comments, but not surprised. The comments were not bad and worded in a constructive way. Jean Bailard is interested to see how the data gets used. Judith Dale said this data will be helpful if Buellton goes for a parcel tax. Irene Macias mentioned that many of the comments are misguided. For example, someone said they would like Sunday hours at the Central Library and there have been Sunday hours for decades. Supervisor Farr suggested having CSBTV do a clip of the public library system to help promote the County libraries. Neil Baker agrees with the lack of new books and believes the Friends groups do a great job funding our libraries as best they can.

4. Library Directors Zone Updates

i. Zone 1 – Irene Macias

ACTION: Irene Macias, Director of the Santa Barbara Central Library reported the following: New self-check-out stations have been installed and take credit cards and cash. The stations have social media features that connect to the library calendar. The Eastside Library will have an unveiling of a mural that was painted on April 6th at 4PM. There have been two break-ins at the Goleta Library. They took the donation money and damaged the self-checkout stations to get the money. The Central Library has lost funding to remodel the outside courtyard, however, is still moving forward with the redesign process. The UCSB and Santa Barbara Library Reads Program was a success. 200 people had to be turned away. “Moon Walking with Einstein” was the book discussed. The City of Santa Barbara is currently in its budget process and it will

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come out in April. Ms. Macias and Ms. Housel attended the California State Public Library Forum.

ii. Zone 2 – Ashlee Chavez

ACTION: Ashlee Chavez, Director of the Lompoc Library reported the following: The budget for the City of Lompoc will be released in May and service levels are the same. Receipt machines have been installed at the Lompoc Library, which has made the checkout process simpler and will also be receiving self-checkout stations in May. \$30,000 of grant funding was received and the Lompoc and Village Libraries will be getting new computers. The Buellton Library got six computers donated from the Santa Ynez Valley Christian Science Society. There was also a new circulation desk installed. The Charlotte's Web Program is in its last stages of getting the MOU revised.

iii. Zone 3 – Mary Housel

ACTION: Mary Housel, Director of the Santa Maria Library reported the following: Maureen Theobald was introduced as a possible representative for the City of Santa Maria seat on the Committee. She is also the Director of Black Gold. Ms. Housel welcomed Laura Selken, the new Fifth District Representative. The Santa Maria Library hours have extended from 48 to 56 hours and it is going great. The new Orcutt Library is doing well; story time is starting again and there will be a poetry reading tomorrow. It was discovered that the Guadalupe Library facility does not have the proper cabling required to have internet. The Cuyama Library will be closed April 12th, reopening April 22nd. Ms. Housel gave a presentation on the Guadalupe Library Parcel Tax Measure I at the California Public Library Advocates meeting in Whittier, CA on March 2. At that meeting, Mary met John Chrastka, founder of EveryLibrary.org, who spoke about his non-profit group "EveryLibrary" that helps library groups plan tax initiatives <http://everylibrary.org/about-everylibrary>. Mary also shared information on Senator Wolk's SCA 7, a senate constitutional amendment to change the 2/3 vote needed to pass library parcel tax measures to a 55% majority for passing.

5. Member Reports/Roundtable Discussions

ACTION: Library Committee Members reported on what is going on at their respective City and County libraries as follows:

Judith Dale thanked Supervisor Farr for attending the meeting. Reported that there was a meeting with the Friends of the Solvang Library, which discussed the Solvang and Buellton Libraries coming into Zone 2 instead of staying in Zone 1. She asked staff what would the process be to do this? Mr. Parker stated that the process would start internally with the Library

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Directors and staff will look into it. Also, the Buellton Library is having an open house for Library Week on April 28th from 4-6pm and it is free to the public. Jean Bailard asked when the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Library Agreement will be coming forward to the committee. The agreement will be coming to the committee at the June meeting and staff is proposing no budget changes. The Friends of the Carpinteria Library will be working on remodeling the library multi-purpose room and they are also still thinking about taking the library parcel tax forward to the Carpinteria City Council. Supervisor Farr proposed that the committee or staff should write a letter to support the SCA-7 bill and take it to the Legislative Platform Committee for approval.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: A motion was made by Baker and seconded by Bailard to adjourn the March 20, 2013 Library Advisory Committee meeting.

Adjourned at 11:49AM

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ITEM NO. 1

SCA 7 REPORT

FOR INFORMATION



STAFF REPORT

DATE: June 19, 2013
TO: Library Advisory Committee
FROM: Mary Housel, Zone 3 Librarian
CC: Herman Parker, Director
SUBJECT: SCA 7 Report

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Library Advisory Committee receive a follow-up report on SCA 7.

BACKGROUND:

SCA 7 by Senator Lois Wolk would authorize the lowering of the local vote threshold from 2/3 to 55% for cities, counties, or library districts to issue construction bonds or levy special taxes for library operations. As of May 15, 2013, SCA passed out of committee on a partisan vote. It is now double-referred to the Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee. These constitutional amendments do not follow the same timeline as a standard bill and can be taken up this year or early next year. To follow all library legislative concerns and actions, sign up for legislative alerts at: www.cla-net.org, the California Library Association website and click on the Advocacy tab.

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment 1 - Latest legislative update on SCA 7 from California Library Association.
Attachment 2 – Draft Letter of Support

May 15, 2013

TO: CLA MEMBERS/ SYSTEMS/ NETWORK CONTACTS

FROM: Mike Dillon, CLA Lobbyist
Christina DiCaro, CLA Lobbyist

RE: News From the Capitol

SCA 7-WOLK PASSES FIRST COMMITTEE
Thank you to library community for support letters

Shortly after noon today, SCA 7 by Senator Lois Wolk passed the Senate Governance and Finance Committee on a straight partisan vote (all Democrat members voting “aye” and the two Republican members voting “no.”) SCA 7 would authorize the lowering of the local vote threshold from two-thirds to 55% for cities, counties, or library districts to issue construction bonds or levy special taxes for library operations. If passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor, as a constitutional amendment, it would need to be passed by the voters on the November 2014 statewide ballot.

Today’s committee agenda for Senate Governance and Finance contained 6 constitutional amendments, (including Senator Wolk’s), which each seek to lower the local vote threshold for various purposes including transportation projects, special taxes, education, and others. To give all of the measures a fair and thorough hearing, Senator Wolk, who also chairs the Committee, scheduled all of the related constitutional amendments for a “special order” commencing at 10:30 a.m. In her overview remarks Senator Wolk stated that the discussion about many of the measures would, undoubtedly, center around Proposition 13, but she said that it would be unrealistic to “suggest that the 35 year old law is perfect.” She said that Proposition 13 ultimately “shifted the financing of key public resources to more unstable options....These measures will increase local flexibility and advance the Governor’s concept of subsidiarity, which brings services closest to the people.” Finally, she closed by asking if an “initiative approved by parents and grandparents should bind voters today. They should have their say.”

After all of the authors had presented their measures (which each similarly passed on a straight partisan vote), Senator Wolk took up her SCA 7. During her presentation, Senator Wolk stressed the importance of libraries to our communities, saying that they “aren’t our traditional libraries anymore. They are offering a host of important services from literacy training to resume building classes, to students who use the after-school online tutoring programs.” Mike Dillon testified on behalf of CLA, noting that the year 2000 marked the last time there was a statewide bond approved by the voters and it quickly was exhausted due to the overwhelming infrastructure need of communities. He explained that it was important to give local governments and local voters the ability to make choices for their communities, such as bond construction, or helping to alleviate some of the drastic cuts that were made to library programs in the state Budget, by levying a local tax for library operations.

Patty Wong, the Yolo County Library Director, member of CLA’s Legislative Committee, and former recipient of Senator Wolk’s “Woman of the Year” award, indicated that the measure had the full support of the Yolo County Supervisors and was much needed for her county. In terms of construction needs, she noted a \$5-8 million need over the next 10-12 years and added that the patron satisfaction ratings are “beyond high and we have more people than we can possibly serve. We are the most reliable source for broadband. We are the people’s university and their small business center, and their home away from home.”

Also testifying in support of the measure were two representatives of the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library, the California State Association of Counties, the lobbyist for the cities of Pasadena and Burbank, Alan Smith Contra Costa Library Commissioner - also representing the California Public Library Advocates (formerly CALTAC), the League of Cities, the California Labor Federation, and lobbyists for Santa Clara County and the City of San Jose. CLA members are to be commended for their strong outpouring of letters of support for this measure, which was represented in the lengthy list in the committee analysis. (Please see the link to the [analysis for SCA 7](#) to view the full, impressive grouping.)

The SCA measures were not without opposition, with a group of business interests from the Chamber of Commerce to the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, to the realtor and apartment association groups and Farm Bureau, asking the members of the committee to oppose each SCA, based on the “state’s current high tax burden” and various other arguments.

SCA 7 subsequently passed out of committee on a partisan vote, as mentioned. All of the bills are now double-referred to the Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee, but because they are constitutional amendments, they do not subscribe to the same timeline as a standard bill. They can be taken up this year or early next year. Once SCA 7 is officially assigned to the next policy committee, we will send you the contact information for those Senators and we will be asking you to write letters of support again.

June 19, 2013

The Honorable Lois Wolk
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814
(Or via fax at (916) 323-2304)

Dear Senator Wolk:

Thank you so much 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%.

Over the past few years, with the economic troubles of today's society, 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, even as the need for libraries grow as children, students, families, and seniors depend on public libraries for a variety of services including 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