



County of Los Angeles Public Library ■ [www.colapublib.org](http://www.colapublib.org)  
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Margaret Donnellan Todd  
County Librarian

July 21, 2009

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVE THE MERGER OF THE SOUTH STATE COOPERATIVE LIBRARY  
SYSTEM INTO THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LIBRARY COOPERATIVE  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

The Public Library is recommending Board of Supervisors' approval of the merger of the South State Cooperative Library System into the Southern California Library Cooperative, formerly known as the Metropolitan Cooperative Library System. The Board of Supervisors' approval for this merger is required under the provisions of the bylaws of the South State Cooperative Library System.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Approve the merger of South State Cooperative Library System into the Southern California Library Cooperative, formerly known as the Metropolitan Cooperative Library System.
2. Authorize and delegate authority to the County Librarian to execute any documents to effectuate the merger, once approved by the Chief Executive Officer, County Counsel or the legal counsel for the South State Cooperative Library System, including documents which amend or terminate the existing South State Joint Powers Authority Agreement.
3. Authorize the County Librarian to implement a transfer of the South State reserves to the Southern California Library Cooperative for use only in the case of fiscal emergency.

## **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

A cooperative library system is a consortium of independent city and/or special district public libraries which have agreed to collaborate in providing library services to the residents of participating jurisdictions. Cooperative library systems provide to member libraries a network for resource sharing, research referral, cooperative training programs, and joint grant applications. Membership in a cooperative library system enables libraries to better serve their customers without the need to independently purchase and maintain additional resources.

The California Library Services Act is the legislation under which cooperative library systems operate. California cooperative library systems are funded by a combination of state grants through the California Library Services Act, federal grants through the Library Services and Construction Act, and local membership fees.

### **South State Cooperative Library System (South State)**

The County of Los Angeles Public Library has been part of the South State Cooperative Library System since 1978. The membership of this association is now comprised of the County of Los Angeles Public Library, the Palmdale City Library, Pasadena City Library and the Inglewood City Library.

On February 9, 1982, the Board of Supervisors approved a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) agreement with the County of Kern and City of Palmdale which reaffirmed the establishment of, and the membership in the South State. The JPA has since been amended twice. The first amendment, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 17, 1990, reflected the withdrawal of the County of Kern from the System and added the City of Pasadena as an associate member. The second amendment was approved by the Board of Supervisors on September 24, 1996 when the City of Inglewood joined South State and the City of Pasadena was recognized as a full member.

### **Merger of the South State Cooperative Library System, the Southern California Library Cooperative and the Santiago Library System**

The three cooperative library systems in Los Angeles County and Orange County will be merging into one organization. The Southern California Library Cooperative, formerly known as Metropolitan Cooperative Library System, was an association of 33 independent city and special district public libraries located in Los Angeles County as

well as in the cities of Oxnard and Thousand Oaks. The Santiago Library System was an association of 9 independent city and special district libraries in Orange County.

The legal counsel for the South State Cooperative Library System has determined that it is legal for South State to merge into the Southern California Library Cooperative (formerly Metropolitan Cooperative Library System). The Library of California Board, which is the state board who governs cooperative library systems, has approved this merger. The Santiago Library System has already completed the merger into the Southern California Library Cooperative.

The merger of these three cooperative library systems will reduce administrative costs and provide greater opportunities for staff training and other collaborative ventures. With the merger of South State, the Southern California Library Cooperative, and the Santiago Library System, residents of Los Angeles County will immediately have access to increased library resources and programs. For example, a library user who currently holds a valid County of Los Angeles library card would be able to obtain a library card, free of charge, and loan privileges, on an equal basis, from any member library. The Cerritos Library currently charges residents of the County Library District \$100 per year for a library card. Once this merger is complete, Cerritos Library will provide free service to all County residents.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

Approval of the recommended actions is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goals in the areas of Operational Effectiveness (1) and Community and Municipal Services (4).

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The County of Los Angeles Public Library pays a membership fee of \$22,000 annually to South State. With this merger, the membership fee will increase to \$25,000. That cost increase is funded in the Public Library's Fiscal Year 2009-10 budget. The membership fee formula is based on population size and is capped for the largest jurisdictions, i.e., Orange County Public Library, Los Angeles City Library and County of Los Angeles Public Library.

South State currently has \$264,000 in reserves. These funds will be transferred to the Southern California Library Cooperative for use only in the case of fiscal emergency. Should the Southern California Library Cooperative dissolve, the reserves deposited by South State will be distributed to the former members of South State, as follows: two

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shares returned to the County of Los Angeles Public Library, one share each to Inglewood City Library, Pasadena City Library and Palmdale City Library.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

On September 27, 1977, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution approving the Amended Plan of Service required by the Public Library Services Act which provide for the development of a cooperative library system known as the South State Cooperative Library System.

On January 31, 1978, the Board of Supervisors approved Education Agreement #7862 with the State Library for Los Angeles County and Kern County Libraries to form a system known as the South State Cooperative Library System.

On February 9, 1982, the Board of Supervisors approved a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) agreement #41064 with the County of Kern and City of Palmdale reaffirming the establishment of, and membership in the South State Cooperative Library System originally established in September, 1977.

On April 17, 1990, the Board of Supervisors approved an amendment to the JPA agreement reflecting the withdrawal of the County of Kern from the System and adding City of Pasadena as an associate member.

On September 24, 1996, the Board of Supervisors approved an amendment to the JPA agreement to add the City of Inglewood as a member and recognizing the status of the City of Pasadena as a full member rather than an associate.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The recommended actions are not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because they do not constitute a project according to Section 15378 of CEQA.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES**

The merger of the South State Cooperative Library System into the Southern California Library Cooperative will improve library services to all residents of the County of Los Angeles.

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**CONCLUSION**

Please return an adopted copy of this Board Letter to the Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,



MARGARET DONNELLAN TODD  
County Librarian

MDT:TM:MR:bf

c: Chief Executive Office  
Acting County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Auditor-Controller