



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer-  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

County Librarian

At its meeting held April 13, 2004, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Molina made the following statement:

“In the mid-1990’s, \$14 million in property taxes were shifted from the County’s Library District to the State of California. Over time, this has become an annual \$7.2 million shortfall in the Library’s budget and affects services at 84 branches and four bookmobiles. The Board has funded this structural shortfall for three years, however, in the past year, the Board put cities on notice that if they failed to place the special tax on their ballots, their library services would be in jeopardy. The following cities responded and placed the library measure on their city ballots: Bell, San Fernando, Huntington Park, South Gate, Montebello, La Puente, Bradbury, Avalon, Carson, Gardena, and Walnut. While the majority of the voters supported this measure, none passed due to the two-thirds requirement.

“The County Library’s Special parcel tax generates \$10 million from cities and unincorporated areas. With increased costs, inflation, and other funding shifts, it is appropriate that this Board direct the County Librarian to develop a curtailment plan for 2004-05 which reflects how much revenue each jurisdiction contributes for library services. Notwithstanding further cuts from the Governor’s budget, the Librarian needs direction for reducing services in cities that do not pay their fair share for library services.

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“I therefore recommend that the Board instruct the County Librarian to report back during the 2004-05 Budget Deliberations with: 1) A curtailment plan that protects each city and unincorporated area contributing to the County Library Special Parcel Tax as well as those cities whose property taxes fully contribute to the cost of running their library; and 2) Develop a menu of options for municipalities to buy back library services and materials to replace the curtailment (cost per day of service, or cost to replace staff positions); and 3) Develop a menu of options for municipalities to contribute in-kind service to replace curtailed service (for example donation of janitorial or landscaping services in exchange for cuts of County funds for landscaping).”

Margaret Donnellan Todd, County Librarian responded to questions posed by the Board.

Supervisor Antonovich presented an amendment to Supervisor Molina’s aforementioned recommendation to instruct the County Librarian to develop several curtailment plans for the purposes of Fiscal Year 2004-05 Budget Deliberations. Supervisor Molina accepted the amendment.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, unanimously carried, the County Librarian was instructed to report back to the Board during the 2004-05 Budget Deliberations with the following:

1. Develop a variety of curtailment plans if budget cuts are proposed during the Deliberations;
2. A curtailment plan that protects each city and unincorporated area contributing to the County Library Special Parcel Tax as well as those cities whose property taxes fully contribute to the cost of running their library;
3. Develop a menu of options for municipalities to buy back library services and materials to replace the curtailment (cost per day of service, or cost to replace staff positions); and

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4. Develop a menu of options for municipalities to contribute in-kind service to replace curtailed service (for example donation of janitorial or landscaping services in exchange for cuts of County funds for landscaping).

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