

Commitment to a Replacement for the Florence Library

The Florence Library (Library), previously located at 1610 East Florence Avenue, was first built in 1970. At 5,000 square feet in size, the Library was one of the smaller facilities within the Los Angeles County (County) Public Library system, and by 2016 was overdue for improvements or replacement, given that it had not received substantial capital improvements within recent years.

In 2016, initial plans were considered to rebuild the Library at its original location as part of a mixed-use development, along with 108 units of affordable housing (AMCAL Project), proposed by AMCAL Housing. However, the cost to co-locate the Library as part of the AMCAL Project ultimately proved to be financially infeasible, and on May 30<sup>th</sup> 2017, the Board of Supervisors authorized the removal of the Library from the AMCAL Project with the direction to site it within the Florence-Firestone Constituent Service Center (Constituent Service Center) located at Nadeau Street and Compton Avenue, approximately .6 miles away. The AMCAL Project was subsequently redesigned to create only 2,000 square feet of non-housing related space, which will be occupied by a County workforce development center. The remainder of the space previously allocated to the replacement Library is now part of the residential use.

-MORE-

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
NOVEMBER 19, 2019  
PAGE 2**

The Constituent Service Center would have accommodated a new library and community room of approximately 9,100 square feet, almost double the original 5,000 square foot location, and would have been of comparable size to the initially proposed library as part of the AMCAL Project. While this concept was initially supported by community members, subsequent concerns were raised by local community stakeholders regarding the new location at the Constituent Service Center. In an effort to be responsive to community feedback, the relocation of the Library to the Constituent Service Center was taken off of the table, and the Chief Executive Office's Real Estate Division, in coordination with the Public Library Department, began searching for alternative viable sites.

While construction of the AMCAL Project is now well underway, an "Express" Florence Library, which boasts 14 computers and offers regular programming, has been established at Roosevelt Park, a half-mile away from the original Library location. In addition, the community has access to three other libraries within a two mile radius of the former Library. However, the County should remain committed to finding a new and improved long-term home for the Library that will offer enhanced features including modern technology, a robust book collection, as well as welcoming spaces to meet the needs of the surrounding community.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. Find that the recommended actions do not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act because they are activities, including establishing the capital project and appropriating funds, that are excluded from the definition of a project by Section 21065 of the Public Resources Code and section 15378(b) (4) and (5) of the State CEQA Guidelines. The proposed action to establish a project for a potential project is an organizational or administrative activity of government which will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment as well as the creation of a government funding mechanism that does not involve a

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
NOVEMBER 19, 2019  
PAGE 3**

commitment to a specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment. The appropriate environmental documentation will be completed and submitted to the Board of Supervisors (Board) for consideration when the Project returns to the Board for consideration of approval of a capital project;

2. Establish the proposed New Florence Library Project, Capital Project No. 77616, with an estimated project cost of \$4,671,000 of Second District Capital Project Funds;
3. Approve the attached appropriation adjustment to increase revenue and appropriation of \$1,000,000 in the Florence Library Refurbishment project, Capital Project No. 87378; and transfer \$4,671,000 from the Florence Library Refurbishment project, Capital Project No. 87378 to fund the proposed New Florence Library project, Capital Project No. 77616;
4. Instruct the Director of the Los Angeles County Library Department (Library Department) and the CEO's legislative team in Sacramento to explore all potential grant opportunities, including working with the State Legislature to attempt to secure funds through the State Budget, that can be used to support the siting and development of the future Florence Library Project;
5. Direct the CEO and Director of the Library Department, in consultation with stakeholders from the Florence-Firestone community, to aggressively continue their search for an appropriate and suitable permanent location for the Florence Library; and
6. Direct the CEO to utilize best efforts to return to the Board no later than September 2020 with the appropriate proposed real estate agreement(s) to secure the new location and construction of the new Florence Library.

###

(CG/KJ)

November 19, 2019

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT**

DEPARTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**AUDITOR-CONTROLLER:**

THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT IS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THIS DEPARTMENT. PLEASE CONFIRM THE ACCOUNTING ENTRIES AND AVAILABLE BALANCES AND FORWARD TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR HER RECOMMENDATION OR ACTION.

**ADJUSTMENT REQUESTED AND REASONS THEREFORE  
FY 2019-20  
4 - VOTES**

SOURCES		USES	
LA COUNTY LIBRARY FLORENCE LIBRARY REFURBISHMENT A01-CP-94-9924-65044-87378 OTHER MISCELLANEOUS/CP - EXCLUDING GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS <b>INCREASE REVENUE</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	LA COUNTY LIBRARY FLORENCE LIBRARY REFURBISHMENT A01-CP-6014-65044-87378 CAPITAL ASSETS - B & I <b>INCREASE APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>
LA COUNTY LIBRARY FLORENCE LIBRARY REFURBISHMENT A01-CP-6014-65044-87378 CAPITAL ASSETS - B & I <b>DECREASE APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>4,671,000</b>	LA COUNTY LIBRARY NEW FLORENCE LIBRARY A01-CP-6006-65044-77616 CAPITAL ASSETS - LAND <b>INCREASE APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>4,671,000</b>
<b>SOURCES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,671,000</b>	<b>USES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,671,000</b>

**JUSTIFICATION**

Reflects an increase in revenue and appropriation of \$1,000,000 for the Florence Library Refurbishment project, C.P. No. 87378 due to collected revenue from AMCAL Multi-Housing Two, LLC (AMCAL); and transfer \$4,671,000 from Florence Library Refurbishment, C.P. No. 87378 to the New Florence Library, C.P. No. 77616.

**ADOPTED**  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

  
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE      JAMES YUN, MANAGER, CEO

BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S APPROVAL (AS REQUESTED/REVISED)  
**# 20**      **NOV 28 2019**

  
CELIN ZAVALA

REFERRED TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR---  
 ACTION  
 RECOMMENDATION  
BY   
DATE **Nov. 14, 2019**

APPROVED AS REQUESTED  
 APPROVED AS REVISED  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
BY   
DATE **11/14/19**

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER  
B.A. NO. **080**