



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: County Executive Office

Subject: Proposed 2025-26 Budget for the Library Fund

Meeting Date: June 4, 2025

Formal Title: Approve the Proposed 2025-26 Budget for the Library Fund, including any supplemental materials, and take related actions, as outlined in the referenced budget documents, and as recommended by the County Executive Officer

Recommended Action

Approve the Proposed 2025-26 Budget for the Library Fund, including any supplemental materials, as provided in the referenced budget documents:

- [Proposed Budget](#)

Executive Summary

The Proposed 2025-26 Budget for the Library Fund supports the collection of property taxes and maintenance of effort contributions from the cities of Watsonville and Scotts Valley that are then distributed to the Santa Cruz County Library Financing Authority, which finances public library services throughout the County.

Discussion

The County Library Fund collects property taxes in County unincorporated areas and maintenance of effort contributions from the Cities of Capitola and Scotts Valley. This funding, as well as proceeds of Measure R, a quarter-cent sales tax for libraries, finances public library services through the Santa Cruz County Library Financing Authority (LFA). The LFA is a joint powers authority formed in 1996 by the County of Santa Cruz and the Cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley and Watsonville, established for the purpose of consolidating and providing for equitable financing of library services.

The budget reflects important service changes, including transferring less funds for capital improvements to make more funds available for the MOE contribution. Adequate funding is available for major maintenance and capital needs in the Library Capital Fund and from Measure S. The department Proposed 2025-26 Budget document is available online at: www.SCCVision.us

Over the next fiscal year, the department will be focused primarily on implementing the fifth amendment to the joint powers agreement between the County and four incorporated cities and completing capital asset reserve studies for the Aptos, Live Oak, and Scotts Valley branches. Studies have been completed for the Capitola, Boulder Creek, and Felton branches. La Selva Beach is excluded due to the lease agreement with the La Selva Beach Recreation District.

Financial Impact

The Library Fund Proposed Budget includes \$9,848,894 in expenditures offset by \$9,404,346 in revenues and \$444,548 in other fund contributions. This reflects a total expenditure increase of \$1,697,276 or 20.8% from the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Adopted Budget.

Strategic Initiatives

Operational Plan - Comprehensive Health & Safety, Operational Excellence

Submitted By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.