
Meeting of the North County Library Authority
Friday, November 11, 2011 - 5:30 pm
Neutra House
181 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, California 94022

NOTE TO PUBLIC

Please provide the staff liaison with **10 copies** of any document that you would like to submit to the Commission in order for it to become part of the public record

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Authority regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection in the Finance office located at 1 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California during normal business hours

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the audience may bring to the Commission's attention any item that is not on the agenda. Speakers are generally given two or three minutes, at the discretion of the Chair. State law prohibits the Commission from discussing or acting on items that do not appear on the agenda.
--

CONSENT CALENDAR

1) Approve the Minutes From The Meeting of July 27, 2011

DISCUSSION

2) Sub-Committee Report on Library Services

- a) Subcommittee Reports
- b) Special Counsel Findings and Report
- c) Approve Recommended Next Steps

3) Presentation and Discussion of Key County Correspondence

- a) 07/22/11 Town of Los Altos Hills letter to the County
- b) Santa Clara County Library District JPA – 10/31/11 Response to Los Altos Hills Letter
- c) 07/27/11 City of Los Altos letter to the County
- d) Santa Clara County Library District JPA – 10/31/11 Response to Los Altos Letter

4) Request for Proposal – Library Services Study

- a) Discussion of possible next steps
- b) Discussion and approval of NCLA funding for an exploratory study
 - i) External Services
 - ii) City Staff Budget Appropriation

COMMISSION REPORTS AND DIRECTIONS ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) Instruction of matters for future meetings.

NEXT MEETING DATES

Prospectively -January and May (Per Norms)

ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City will make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the staff liaison 72 hours prior to the meeting at (650) 947-2700.

Please take notice that the time within which to seek judicial review of any final administrative determination reached at this meeting is governed by Section 1094.6 of the California Code of Civil Procedure

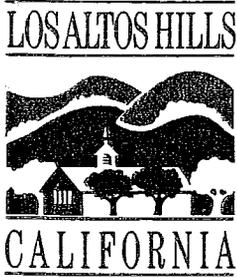
07/22/11 Town of Los Altos Hills letter to the County

**Santa Clara County Library District JPA – 10/31/11
Response to Los Altos Hills Letter**

07/27/11 City of Los Altos letter to the County

**Santa Clara County Library District JPA – 10/31/11
Response to Los Altos Letter**

07/22/11 Town of Los Altos Hills letter to the County



July 22, 2011

Mr. Dion Bracco
Chair, Santa Clara County Library Joint Powers Authority
14600 Winchester Blvd.
Los Gatos, CA 95032-1817

**Re: Extending Fee Exemption for Non-District College Students and Volunteers and
Notification of Town Support for NCLA Study of Alternative Library Services**

Dear Mr. Bracco,

The City Council of the Town of Los Altos Hills, at their regularly scheduled meeting on June 16, 2011, unanimously approved a motion respectfully requesting that the Santa Clara County Library JPA extend the fee exemption (free limited access card) for students who are enrolled in school districts, which overlap with the boundaries of the Santa Clara County Library District, to include (1) registered college students, particularly those from the Foothill-DeAnza Community College District and (2) County Library volunteers. The library community of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills had previously established a threshold of 30 hours of volunteering in one year to qualify for "volunteer" status and thus deserving of a free library card.

The residents of Los Altos Hills have consistently supported academic advancement through strong schools and libraries. An extension of the fee exemption to include community college students and library volunteers would reaffirm our commitment to those seeking to improve our community through higher learning and volunteerism.

The City Council also unanimously approved a second motion supporting a study to be conducted under the auspices of the North County Library Authority that would evaluate the economics and feasibility of procuring alternative library services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ginger Summit".

Ginger Summit, Mayor
Town of Los Altos Hills

Mr. Dion Bracco

July 22, 2011

Page Two

cc. Melinda Cervantes, County Librarian
Derek Wolfgram, Deputy County Librarian
Vinod Sharma, County Controller-Treasurer
Dave Cortese, Supervisor
George Shirakawa, Supervisor
Liz Kniss, Supervisor
Ken Yeager, Supervisor
Mike Wasserman, Supervisor

Jason Baker, Campbell
Gilbert Wong, Cupertino
Val Carpenter, Los Altos
Jean Mordo, Los Altos Hills
Debbie Giordano, Milpitas
Emily Lo, Saratoga
Lana Malloy, Monte Sereno
Steve Tate, Morgan Hill

**Santa Clara County Library District JPA – 10/31/11
Response to Los Altos Hills Letter**

SANTA CLARA COUNTY LIBRARY
14600 WINCHESTER BOULEVARD • LOS GATOS CA 95032 • 408.293.2326 • 408.364.0161 FAX
ADMINISTRATION



October 31, 2011

RECEIVED

NOV - 2 2011

Ginger Summit, Mayor
Town of Los Altos Hills
26379 Fremont Road
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

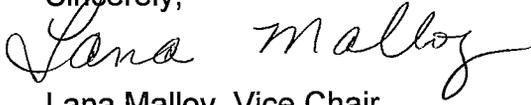
Dear Mayor Summit:

I am writing in response to your letter of July 22 to the Santa Clara County Library Joint Powers Authority on behalf of the City Council of the Town of Los Altos Hills. I am encouraged by the lively discussion by the JPA Board of the City Council's concerns and have noted the direction given to staff below. Jean Mordo, the Los Altos Hills representative to the JPA, attended the October 27, 2011 JPA Board meeting and can serve as an additional resource to your City Council regarding details of the JPA Board's discussion.

Your letter requested that the free student limited card exemption from the Library District's non-resident fee be extended to volunteers and registered college students. In response, the JPA Board directed staff to prepare a recommendation for the January 26, 2012 JPA Board meeting to implement an exemption from the fee for non-district resident library volunteers with eligibility guidelines (such as a minimum number of annual volunteer hours.) This recommendation will go beyond the request to provide a free limited card for volunteers to actually provide a free full service library card for volunteers who meet the eligibility guidelines. The JPA Board took no action to exempt college students from the fee.

As a fellow city council member, I recognize the challenges and difficult decisions local governments are facing. As Vice Chair of the Santa Clara County Library District JPA Board, I could not be more proud of our award-winning Library and the staff who deliver high quality service to each of our communities every day. The Santa Clara County Library District is consistently ranked nationally as one of the Top 100 Libraries. And through strong leadership by the staff and direction from the Board, we have not had to make significant cuts in the library services, hours and collections that our residents value so highly.

Sincerely,



Lana Malloy, Vice Chair

Santa Clara County Library District Joint Powers Authority Board

cc: Jason Baker, Mayor, Campbell
Dion Bracco, Council Member, Gilroy
Val Carpenter, Mayor Pro Tem, Los Altos
Debbie Giordano, Council Member, Milpitas
Liz Kniss, Supervisor, District 5
Emily Lo, Councilmember, Saratoga
Jean Mordo, Council Member, Los Altos Hills
Steve Tate, Mayor, Morgan Hill
Mike Wasserman, Supervisor, District 1
Gilbert Wong, Mayor, Cupertino
Dave Cortese, President, Board of Supervisors
George Shirakawa, Supervisor, District 2
Ken Yeager, Supervisor, District 4
Vinod Sharma, Director of Finance Agency, County of Santa Clara
Carl Cahill, City Manager, Los Altos Hills
Melinda Cervantes, County Librarian

07/27/11 City of Los Altos letter to the County



July 27, 2011

Dave Cortese, President
County Board of Supervisors
70 West Hedding Street
San Jose, CA 95110

Re: County Library System

Dear Supervisor Cortese,

The Los Altos City Council held a public meeting on June 28, 2011, regarding certain concerns for the County Library JPA. As a result, I was asked to send to you and others this letter. First, however, I would like to reaffirm the commitments our two communities of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills have for strong libraries. Libraries are held in such high esteem by our voters that in the last parcel tax election to fund the County Library JPA, the ballot measure passed in our two communities with an extremely high percentage. Indeed, the ballot measure would have lost but for the extra strong voter approval from our two communities.

We are proud of the County Library system, want it to remain strong, and want the Los Altos Libraries to be an ongoing part of it. We have some substantial concerns, however, regarding the long-term viability of the system. These concerns are great enough that we have engaged the services of outside experts and consultants regarding possible alternatives of the Los Altos Libraries, including severance, if they cannot be adequately addressed. Following are our key concerns:

(a) **Sharing formula.** The County Library JPA contains a sharing formula that was agreed on many years ago. The vast majority of funding for the County Library JPA is generated by property taxes. Los Altos and Los Altos Hills provides 22.2% of the property tax revenues, yet is allocated only 16.9% of the benefits. Jean Mordo, Los Altos Hills Councilmember and a former CFO of a major public company, estimates that difference to be at least \$1.35 million annually. While the County Library JPA estimates it at only \$400,000, another financial analyst has informally estimated the difference at \$1.4 million annually. While our Council does not feel the need for exactitude or full equality, a difference of over \$1 million does become a concern. Our two communities just went through the ordeal of imposing on ourselves an extra parcel tax to keep the Los Altos library hours and books at an acceptable level, and the extra parcel tax is surprisingly similar to the extra contribution being made by our communities to the libraries of other cities.

(b) **Union salaries and pension benefits.** All library employees are County employees, with salaries, pension benefits, and restrictions negotiated exclusively by the County Board of Supervisors. The City members of the County Library JPA have little to no say regarding the terms and provisions. There are several significant problems with this arrangement. The compensation and pension benefits are far more generous than what Los Altos-Los Altos Hills have provided to their respective employees. This has resulted in the County Library having to decrease its personnel/programs, or require cities to provide additional funding to maintain the desired levels of service. As indicated, our two communities have done such, but as the costs of these salaries and pension benefits continue to rise, the long-term negative impacts on the Los Altos Library hours

and books will continue to grow. As such, we specifically request that all union contracts that involve County Library JPA personnel be negotiated to include a two-tier pension benefit provision with modest compensation levels and no life-time health benefits for new employees, and that the same be achieved to the extent legally possible for the current employees. An alternative would be for the County Library JPA to disengage from the County and employ its own employees free of the burdens of prior agreements, to the extent legally allowed.

(c) **Union volunteer restrictions.** We understand that under the current union contract any services that are cut due to lack of funds cannot be provided by volunteers or part time non-union employees. This restriction is not based on state law, but on the negotiated terms of the contract. These arrangements are antagonistic towards the extraordinary volunteerism which characterizes our two communities. As such, we specifically request that the union contract be negotiated so that any such restrictions are eliminated.

(d) **Nonresident \$80 fee.** The County Library JPA recently imposed an \$80 charge for a Library card for nonresidents, with an exemption for only certain pre-K through 12th grade students. In order to maintain the benefits that the numerous nonresident volunteers provide to the Los Altos Library, our communities have gathered non-profit contributions and have considered dipping into the extra parcel tax recently passed, to provide library cards to such volunteers. As such, we request that the entire \$80 nonresident fee be eliminated, or, in the alternative, that it is eliminated for volunteers and community college students, and that our prior funding on behalf of such is reimbursed.

We appreciate your attention to our concerns and these requests. I recognize the extremely frustrating role we all play in attempting to provide services with ever limited funds. Yet it is in that spirit that we are making these suggestions and hope that we all can continue together with the superior library system we enjoy. We look forward to your cooperation in this exploratory process.

Sincerely,

Ron Packard, Mayor
City of Los Altos

cc. Melinda Cervantes, County Librarian
Derek Wolfgram, Deputy County Librarian
Val Carpenter, Los Altos
George Shirakawa, Supervisor
Liz Kniss, Supervisor
Ken Yeager, Supervisor
Mike Wasserman, Supervisor
Steve Tate, Morgan Hill
Nick Pegueros, Los Altos Hills

Jason Baker, Campbell
Gilbert Wong, Cupertino
Jean Mordo, Los Altos Hills
Debbie Giordano, Milpitas
Burton Craig, Monte Sereno
Lana Malloy, Monte Sereno
Emily Lo, Saratoga
Doug Schmitz, Los Altos
Russell J. Morreale, Los Altos

**Santa Clara County Library District JPA – 10/31/11
Response to Los Altos Letter**

SANTA CLARA COUNTY LIBRARY

14600 WINCHESTER BOULEVARD • LOS GATOS CA 95032 • 408.293.2326 • 408.364.0161 FAX

ADMINISTRATION



October 31, 2011

Val Carpenter, Mayor Pro Tem
City of Los Altos
1 North San Antonio Road
Los Altos, CA 94022

RECEIVED

NOV - 2 2011

TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

Dear Mayor Pro Tem Carpenter:

I am writing in response to the Los Altos City Council's letter signed by Mayor Ron Packard and received on July 29 2011. I am encouraged by the lively discussion by the Santa Clara County Library District Joint Powers Authority Board of Mayor Packard's and the City Council's concerns and have noted the direction given to staff below. I will defer to you, as the Los Altos representative to the JPA and as a participant in the Oct. 27, 2011 Board meeting, as an additional resource to your City Council regarding details of the JPA Board's discussion.

1. In response to the concern that the funding formula in the Santa Clara County Library District Joint Powers Authority Agreement does not adequately reflect the property tax contributions of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, the JPA Board intends to review the funding formula, beginning with an agendaized discussion on the JPA Board's January 26, 2012 meeting agenda, including consideration of establishing an ad hoc committee.
2. In response to the concern that the County has negotiated overly generous salaries and benefits for employees, the JPA intends to encourage the County to keep working on reducing employee compensation and benefits. The JPA notes that the current two-year contracts with the two labor unions that represent Library employees include equivalent wage reductions of approximately 7%. The unions' concessions included increased employee pension contributions, employee contributions toward retirement health care, increased health care co-pays, the elimination of four holidays, furloughs, reduced wages for current extra help employees, and lower starting wages for all newly hired employees.
3. In response to the concern that the County should negotiate with its unions to allow volunteers to perform the same job duties as employees, the JPA took no action. In fiscal year 2011, the Library utilized 35,887 hours of volunteer work, or the equivalent of 17.25 full time equivalent staff positions. The County Librarian offered to meet with Los Altos Hills JPA Board Member Jean Mordo about his specific request that volunteers be allowed to read stories to children in the library.

4. In response to the request that the \$80 non-District resident fee should be eliminated, the JPA disagrees and will continue its implementation of the fee. In response to the alternate request that the fee be eliminated for volunteers and community college students, the JPA Board directed staff to prepare a recommendation for the January 26, 2012 JPA Board meeting to implement an exemption from the fee for non-district resident library volunteers with eligibility guidelines (such as a minimum number of annual volunteer hours.) The JPA Board took no action to exempt community college students from the fee.

As a fellow city council member, I recognize the challenges and difficult decisions local governments are facing. As Vice Chair of the Santa Clara County Library District JPA Board, I could not be more proud of our award-winning Library and the staff who deliver high quality service to each of our communities every day. The Santa Clara County Library District is consistently ranked nationally as one of the Top 100 Libraries. And through strong leadership by the staff and direction from the Board, we have not had to make significant cuts in the library services, hours and collections that our residents value so highly.

Sincerely,



Lana Malloy, Vice Chair
Santa Clara County Library District Joint Powers Authority Board

cc: Jason Baker, Mayor, Campbell
Dion Bracco, Council Member, Gilroy
Debbie Giordano, Council Member, Milpitas
Liz Kniss, Supervisor, District 5
Emily Lo, Councilmember, Saratoga
Jean Mordo, Council Member, Los Altos Hills
Steve Tate, Mayor, Morgan Hill
Mike Wasserman, Supervisor, District 1
Gilbert Wong, Mayor, Cupertino
Dave Cortese, President, Board of Supervisors
George Shirakawa, Supervisor, District 2
Ken Yeager, Supervisor, District 4
Vinod Sharma, Director of Finance Agency, County of Santa Clara
Carl Cahill, City Manager, Town of Los Altos Hills
Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive, County of Santa Clara
Doug Schmitz, City Manager, Los Altos
Russell Morreale, Finance Director, Los Altos
Carl Cahill, City Manager, Los Altos Hills
Nick Pegueros, Administrative Services Director, Los Altos Hills
Burton Craig, City Council Member, Monte Sereno
Melinda Cervantes, County Librarian