

Jean Mordo, Mayor,
Christopher Jordan, City Manager, and
Cindy Hill, North County Library Authority President
One North San Antonio Road
Los Altos, CA 94022

Dear Mayor Mordo and City Manager Jordan, and President Hill

At the October 25, 2018 Santa Clara County Library District (SCCLD) Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Board meeting, the JPA approved an increase to the SCCLD staffing budget, including the Los Altos Libraries. The purpose of this action is to open all SCCLD libraries seven days per week with at least four hours of service on Sundays, by providing additional staffing for the Campbell, Gilroy, Morgan Hill and Saratoga Community Libraries. The Library District strives to make service available on the days and hours most desired by our communities, and based on our customer satisfaction survey, weekend hours are in high demand. In addition, the service provided is intended to attract the greatest number of residents to become new and/or more engaged library patrons.

To preserve funding equity in accordance with the JPA's Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement funding formula, an additional \$314,815 will be allocated to the Los Altos Community Library for staffing in fiscal year 2019-2020.

The increased revenue comes from higher than expected property tax and ERAF payments. We estimate that revenue will continue at this level for at least two years, but cannot predict the likelihood of availability beyond this period.

The North County Library Authority (NCLA) currently contributes \$723,670 to staff the Los Altos Community Library an additional 17 open hours per week, and the Woodland Branch Library an additional 25 hours per week. With Los Altos' additional funding formula-derived library staffing budget increase of \$314,815, we are asking for your consideration of the following directions as a starting point to discuss FY 2019/20 budget dollars:

1. NCLA continues to fund additional hours and add more open hours. Based on the previous request from NCLA to expand evening hours later in the week and weekend at the Woodland Branch Library, staff suggests Woodland could be open from 11:00 am – 6:00 pm on Thursday through Sunday. This would provide 4 additional hours per week and allow the library to be open an extra hour until 6:00 pm on these days. Other hours could be explored if NCLA is interested.
2. NCLA augments library funding for services. Staff suggests adding additional headcount for the Go Go Biblio library outreach service to provide 5-8 stops in Los Altos per week.
3. Temporarily suspend the NCLA funding for a minimum of two years from \$723,670 to \$408,855 with no change to current open hours. Should the increased property tax and ERAF revenue no

longer be available after two years (beginning July 1, 2021), the city's current contribution of \$723,670 (adjusted for increases in salary and benefit costs) would likely be needed to maintain the current 17 additional open hours per week at the Los Altos Community Library and 25 additional open hours per week at the Woodland Branch Library.

We value our partnership and appreciate the opportunity to provide excellent library services to enhance the lives of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills residents. We will contact you to schedule a meeting in December to discuss these and other directions in more detail.

Sincerely,



Mike Wasserman, Chair
Joint Powers Authority Board



Nancy Howe
County Librarian