



11.4A

OFFICE OF THE  
CITY MANAGER

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA  
95814-2600  
264-5704  
FAX 264-7618  
TDD (ONLY) 916-264-7227

June 26, 1996

City Council  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT:** PROPOSED BENEFIT ASSESSMENT FOR LIBRARY SERVICES

**LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT:** City wide

**RECOMMENDATION:**

City staff recommends that the Council not adopt a library benefit assessment nor submit such a proposal to City voters this year.

**CONTACT:** Michael Coleman, Senior Management Analyst 264-7731  
Jack Crist, Deputy City Manager 264-5704

**FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING OF:** July 2, 1996

**SUMMARY**

City staff have watched closely the proposals to place an assessment on the November 1996 municipal general election. In light of the City's budget problems, staff recommends that no library assessment be adopted unless it includes:

- 1) no guarantees that the library will be protected from budget reductions
- 2) a 2% inflation factor on the assessment mirroring property A.V. growth provisions in Article XIII of the state constitution
- 3) a clause that if the City reduces its general fund contribution to the library the assessment be reduced by a like proportion.

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION** None

**BACKGROUND**

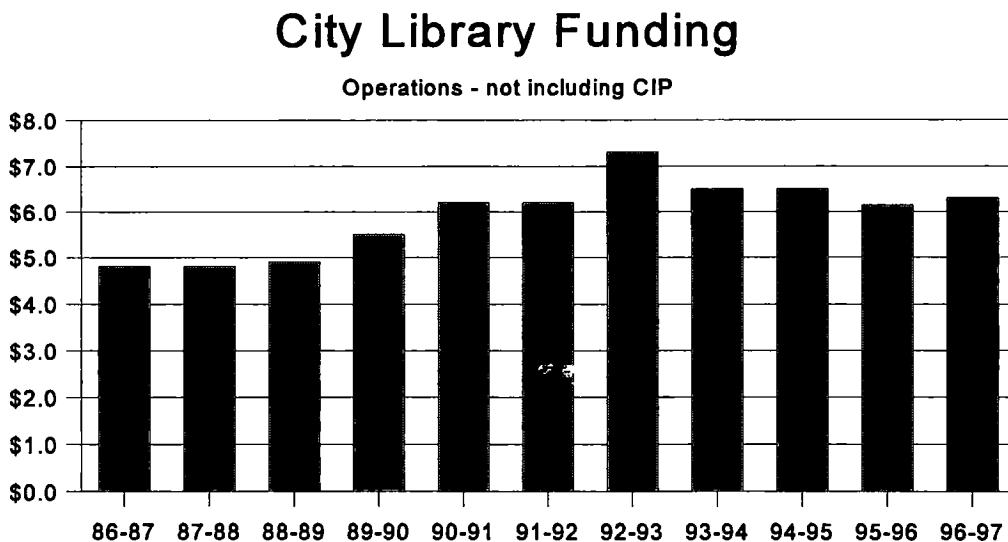
On April 25, 1996, the Sacramento Public Library Authority voted to refer a proposal for an assessment to provide funding for library services to the County Board of Supervisors and City Council. The proposal, initiated by a group of Library supporters called "Libraries for Our Future," called for a measure to be submitted to the voters in the City and County. On May 7, the City Council approved the proposal, depending on action of the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors, on May 14, voted against placing the Library Assessment on the November ballot. A majority of the Board indicated they would support a Special Tax proposal for library services, requiring 2/3 voter approval.

On June 20, Library staff reported to Council that the "Libraries for Our Future" committee had decided to "not recommend going forward with any alternate funding mechanism for the City of Sacramento at this time," given the committee's belief in system-wide approaches. Several members of the City Council expressed their continued interest in the proposal and requested that the "Libraries for Our Future" consider if they would campaign for a City-only assessment proposal on the November 1996 ballot. Some Council members suggested adjustments to the proposal.

On June 24, 1996, members of the "Libraries for Our Future" committee met and determined the conditions under which they would campaign for a City library assessment. Those criteria are summarized in an accompanying report from the Library staff.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Adopted 1996-97 funding of the library is \$6.3 million. In addition, the City is spending \$350,000 for facility repairs to the McClatchy Library and paying debt service on past library facility improvements including Colonial Heights, Clunie, Belle Cooleedge and Central Libraries. The chart below depicts the City's funding of library operations (not including new facilities and improvements) since 1986.



In the fall of 1996-97, the City will begin a long range planning process. A principal outcome of this process will be a strategy to close the projected \$8 to \$10 million budget gap in 1997-98 and beyond.

## **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

**Going it Alone.** City per capita spending has long exceeded the County by a substantial margin even given overhead allocation methods which are more than generous to the County. One goal of the Library is to equalize these differences to create a uniform level of service throughout the Agency's service area. Should the City exacerbate this difference by going it alone?

**We Need Friends.** An essential element to a successful ballot measure is an active and dedicated group of campaigners. Public agency staff are prohibited from campaign activities. An active and dedicated group of campaigners is possible only if the ballot measure is structured to their liking. This should be considered in light of the reaction and comment of the "Libraries for Our Future" group on May 24.

**Fuel to Jarvis' Fire.** How would the appearance of this proposal on the November ballot affect voting for the "Right to Vote on Taxes Act?"

**Making the Library Budget Off-Limits.** Voter approval of a tax/assessment for libraries puts the library budget off limits. *Regardless* of what legal dollar amount is specified for "base funding", the political reality is that it will be extremely difficult for the City to consider cuts to the library budget on the heels of the voters approving an extra tax/assessment for those services. In light of it's present fiscal condition, the City must retain maximum flexibility to reduce spending and programs according to the priorities of the City Council.

Staff would support a library assessment proposal with the following provisions:

- 1) no guarantees that the library will be protected from budget reductions
- 2) a 2% inflation factor on the assessment mirroring property A.V. growth provisions in Article XIII of the state constitution
- 3) a clause that if the City reduces its general fund contribution to the library the assessment be reduced by a like proportion.


## **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no changes to the environment as a result of this action.

**MBE/WBE EFFORTS**


Not applicable since there are no goods or services being purchased as a direct result of this effort.

Respectfully Submitted by:



MICHAEL COLEMAN  
Senior Management Analyst

Recommendation Approved:



WILLIAM H. EDGAR  
City Manager



APPROVED  
BY THE CITY COUNCIL  
JUL 2 1996  
OFFICE OF THE  
CITY CLERK

11.3

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

1231 I STREET  
SUITE 400  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
95814-2977

PH 916-264-5200  
FAX 916-264-7643

June 20, 1996

City Council  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT: Final Report from the Urban Forest Task Force**

**LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT: City Wide**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This report presents the final report of the Urban Forest Task Force. In addition, this report requests that the City Council endorse the recommendations and findings in the report and direct staff to work in cooperation with the Sacramento Tree Foundation, SMUD, Sacramento County and the U.S. Forest Service on implementation of the action items.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Janet Baker, Administrative Analyst, 264-5535

**FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF:** July 2, 1996

**SUMMARY**

This report provides a brief summary of the final report of the Urban Forest Task Force. Included are recommendations from the Task Force for next step actions to further the health and community stewardship for the urban forest region wide.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City Council adopted the *Urban Forest Management Plan* in December 1993. In September 1995, staff reported to the City Council on plans to create an Urban Forest Task Force to address implementation of the *Urban Forest Management Plan* and the state of the urban forest region-wide. The Task Force was formed in January 1996 and included representative from government agencies, private industry and community members. A list of participants is included as Exhibit A.

The Task Force formed 18 issue-drive subcommittees and worked at monthly meetings to assess the current state of the urban forest within each category. The work of subcommittees is complete and staff compiled their work along with relevant research findings into a final report.

The final report includes an executive summary, list of findings and action recommendations as well as the state of the urban forest as viewed through each category. Action recommendations include the following:

- Use the resources of the Western Center for Urban Forestry to critique current projects and programs (participants: Sacramento Tree Foundation, City, County, SMUD)
- Develop a citizen forestry program and procedures to inventory, maintain, trim and plant trees in one pilot neighborhood in Spring 1997 (participants: Sacramento Tree Foundation, City).
- Designate a lead agency or task force to group together resources for urban forest corridors, including transportation, air quality and flood control (City, County, Sacramento Tree Foundation).
- Empower citizens through education programs. Launch the first cooperative education program (participants: City, Sacramento Tree Foundation, SMUD, Air Quality District, U.C., others).
- Work with all agencies to develop the concept of the Urban Forest as a utility and work toward funding commitments to increase regional funding for urban forest maintenance, education and partnerships (participants: City, County, State, Air Quality District, Regional Transit, U.C., others).

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There is no request for additional funding at this time. Future funding strategies will result from projects and partnerships during the coming year. Staff will return to the City Council for approval of any specific partnership agreements when the program details are finalized and ready for implementation.

**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

The proposed strategies to expand partnerships with the Sacramento Tree Foundation, SMUD and others is consistent with policies adopted in the *Urban Forest Management Plan* and recent direction from the City Council.

**MBE/WBE EFFORTS**

No goods or services are being purchased with this item.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**

This item does not require environmental review. The environmental review process was completed for the Urban Forest Management Plan prior to adoption by the City Council.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Hanamura, Director, Area 1  
Neighborhood Services Department

**RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED:**



WILLIAM H. EDGAR  
City Manager



JACK CRIST  
Deputy City Manager

Exhibits: A and the State of the Urban Forest Report (under separate cover)