

**Ventura County Library  
Director's Report  
Feb. 24, 2011**

**Impacts of Governor's Budget Proposal on CA Libraries**

Governor Brown's proposed budget eliminates all state funding for libraries in California. This would result in \$30 million in savings and eliminate all state Public Library Fund, all state money for literacy, as well as, all state money for the cooperative systems such as SCLC, the system that Ventura County belongs to.

The direct impact on Ventura County would be the loss of \$147,000 in PLF (down from \$1.2 million in 2000), the loss in \$35,000 in literacy funding and the eventual loss of our cooperative system. SCLC is what provides us with delivery between library systems, the assurance that other cities, such as Thousand Oaks cannot charge for our residents to use their libraries as well as reference and training for our staff.

Along with Barbara Murray, Oxnard Library Director and Carol Chapman, Manager of Project Read for VCL, I met with Assemblyman Das Williams and with State Senator Tony Strickland's aide on Friday Feb. 11, 2011 to discuss the impact of these cuts on libraries throughout California. Carol Chapman also met with Assemblyman Jeff Gorrell. We stressed that we understand the budget crisis that California is in, but urged that library services funding not be completely eliminated. We talked about the financial benefits of literacy services, the need for systems and the drastic cuts that PLF has taken, even in economically better times. We pointed out that the one place that virtually every demographic in California makes use of is the public library.

**Staffing**

On Dec. 31, 2010, twelve VCL staff people were laid off. Many others had hours cut, were demoted and/or transferred to new sites. In the intervening time, we have been able to hire back some staff and increase hours for others. We have lost many good employees. However, the remaining staff has performed with great professionalism and acclimated quickly to their new libraries.

## **Sunday Hours at Foster**

Beginning Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the E.P. Foster Library is open on Sundays from 1:00-5:00. The first Sunday, 400 people used the library.

## **Move**

Support Services, Administration, and Children's Services consolidated their operations at 5600 Everglades, Ventura, as of the week of December 20, 2010. As previously reported, this will greatly reduce our leasing costs. In addition, it has increased communication across departments. All commissioners are invited to tour the building. ATT delayed transfer of our server until the end of February or early March. While this allowed us to avoid downtime during the move, it has increased the cost of the move due to paying our former landlord to house the server. ATT has identified both the heavy rains in December and changes at ATT for the delay. We have asked them to pick up the costs of additional lease payments but are not optimistic. County IT Services was extremely supportive in getting a more rapid response time from ATT.

## **Privatization Issues**

I have been working with community members and SEIU to create more information on the issues surrounding library funding and the privatization of public libraries. This has included radio interviews, newspaper articles, and involvement in studies currently being done around the US.

## **Ventura Strategic Plan**

The City of Ventura is undertaking a strategic plan to determine the long term goals for libraries in their city. VCL staff has been assisting with information on current services and statistics.

## **Professional Activities**

I serve as the Treasurer for the California Library Association. This has been a period of transition for CLA as they decide how to manage the Association during difficult economic times. This has required a great deal of time and some travel.

In addition, I have been involved in setting up priorities for state library funding both on a state-wide and a system level as the SCLC library directors have met and discussed through email which of the cuts, proposed by the governor, is most harmful to public libraries and their supporters.