



Ventura County

Ventura County Library
14 community libraries

The Library System

14 libraries

Unincorporated

- Meiners Oaks
- Oak View
- Piru
- El Rio
- Oak Park
- Saticoy

Six cities

- Camarillo
- Fillmore
- Port Hueneme
- Simi Valley
- Ojai
- Ventura
 - Foster
 - Wright
 - Avenue



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Library Governance

- MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)
- Library Commission
 - 1 member from each City Council
 - 1 Member from Board of Supervisors
- Property taxes are “Return to Source”



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Estimated budget 09-10

Ventura County Library Consolidation of Foster and Wright Library Estimated for FY 09-10			
CITY OF VENTURA LIBRARIES			
1/21/2009	Before Consol. 09-10	After Consol. 09-10	Savings 09-10
	Estimated Budget	Estimated Budget	Estimated Budget
Revenue-By Source			
Property Taxes	2,153,478	2,153,478	-
General Fund Contribution	262,939		(262,939)
PLF	45,858	39,748	(6,110)
Other Revenue	341,803	341,803	-
Total Revenue	2,804,078	2,535,029	(269,049)
Appropriations			
Personnel Costs	1,120,525	943,440	(177,085)
Service and Supplies	808,071	686,333	(121,738)
Total Direct Appropriations	1,928,596	1,629,773	(298,823)
Total Indirect Appropriations	941,322	905,256	(36,066)
Total Appropriations	2,869,918	2,535,029	(334,889)
Would Require Additional Funding	(65,840)	-	



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Problem

- VCL faces a \$650,000 deficit for FY 09/10
- Ventura is attempting to support two libraries on a one library budget
 - The result is two libraries that are under-budgeted, understaffed, with inadequate collections



Solutions

- Cut hours at all Ventura County Libraries
- Cut collections at all libraries
- Consolidate Wright and Foster



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Why Wright?

- City/County doesn't own land
- Lease is up in 2015
- Ventura County Community College will either substantially increase lease or end the lease in 2015
- Wright will not house both collections
- Wright is not ADA compliant
- Wright has no meeting room
- Wright has no room for a computer lab



Cost Savings of Closing Wright

Personnel	= \$177,085
Communications	= \$ 13,964
Technology	= \$ 12,850
Facility/Equipment Maintenance	= \$ 64,606
Supplies/GSA	= \$ 7,670
Library Materials	= \$ 22,648
TOTAL	= \$ 298,823



Library Advisory Commission

Questions:

- How can we have both Wright and Foster open?
- What impact would that have on library services for the City of Ventura?
- Can we have those scenarios and still save the required \$280,000?



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Voiced concerns

- Alternating schedule is confusing
- Suggest opening mornings one site, afternoons at the second site
- Suggest opening alternating days
- What about parking and transportation?
- Public perception about either library



3 Staffing Scenarios

1. Alternating hours open between Wright and Foster
2. Alternating days open between Wright and Foster
3. Consolidate Wright and Foster



Staffing guidelines

- Legal – State and Federal labor codes
- SEIU (Union) – contract between the County and SEIU
- Job Classifications – VCHR descriptions of levels of responsibility
- Best Practices – ratios and standards used by libraries across the country



When Foster is closed

- 30 public Internet computers, Microfilm/fiche reader-printers, multiple copy machines, copier for newspaper sized originals
 - Viewing equipment for the visually impaired
- Children's library
- Largest collection in the west county
- Large community room with audiovisual equipment – affordable terms
- Foster houses the special collections
 - Ventura County Genealogy Society collection
 - Prescott "Making art" collection
 - Olsen business collection
 - Archived newspapers and periodicals dating as far back as the Civil War
 - Indexed sheet music collection

Scenario 1 – alternating hours

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Library A	10-2	10-2	10-2	10-2	10-2	XX	XX
(Wright = 20 hours)							
Library B	4-8	4-8	4-8	4-8	4-8	10-6	XX
(Foster = 28 hours)							



1 - Service impact

- **Alternating library services go “dark” losing access to existing facilities and collections at any given hour – impact on Avenue Library**
- Total service hours = 48 (down 10 hours)
- **Will result in additional layoffs of extra-help and permanent staff**
- Additional costs:
 - Double the staff time needed to open the library Monday – Thursday (1 hour per day x 5 days x 4 staff = 20 hours extra each week)
 - SEIU contract – employees are paid for their commute time between libraries (1/4 hour per day x 5 days x 10 staff = 12.5 hours each week)
 - SEIU contract – employees are paid for mileage between sites (4 miles x 10 employees x \$.58 per mile est. = \$23.20 per week)



Scenario 2 - alternating days

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Library A	10-8	XX	10-8	XX	11-5	XX	XX
(Wright = 26 hours)							
Library B	XX	10-8	XX	10-8	XX	10-5	XX
(Foster = 27 hours)							



2 – Service impact

- Similar to Scenario 1
 - **Facilities and services “dark” on alternating days**
 - Total service hours = 53 (a reduction of 5 from consolidation schedule)
 - **Will result in additional layoffs of extra-help and permanent staff**
 - Confusion over pickup locations and days for requested items (interlibrary loans)
 - Impact on Avenue Library when Foster is closed
 - No extra transportation and mileage costs for staff
 - No duplication of set-up time
 - No loss of the popular mid-day hours open



Impact of extra-help layoffs.

- Extra-help LT I's cover nights, weekends, substitute for illness, vacations, and meetings.
- They cover for shifts where we are unsuccessful in recruiting.
- They are trained to do reference, readers advisory, and circulation functions.
- Almost all of their time is direct public service.
- Layoffs would also be a very expensive loss of return for their training and experience.



Use statistics

- California State Library – compares libraries and systems across the state.
- Ad hoc reports – generated internally for circulation, computer usage, reference questions answered, programming, etc.
- Financial reports
- Staffing standards – State Library of Texas

Positives

- Full service library 7 days a week
- Best of both collections in one building
- Easy to remember schedule
- The Children's library is unique and leads to grant possibilities

Cost per hour

- The cost to run each library per hour open

WRIGHT LIBRARY = \$ 713 per hour

FOSTER LIBRARY = \$ 642



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