

December 15, 2009

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**Subject:**      **Authorization for County Executive Officer to Give Notice of Termination of the Agreement with the City of Thousand Oaks to Provide Library Services, and Authorization to Continue Discussions with the City to Reach a New Agreement.**

**Recommendation:**

To avoid an automatic renewal of payment to the City of Thousand Oaks, it is recommended that your Board authorize the County Executive Officer to give notice of the termination of the County's Agreement with the City of Thousand Oaks for the City to provide library services to residents of the unincorporated areas surrounding the city, effective July 1, 2010. We also recommend that your Board authorize the County Executive Officer to continue discussions with the City of Thousand Oaks on an alternative agreement.

**Fiscal/Mandates Impact:**

Mandatory: No  
Source of Funding: General Fund  
Funding Match Required: N/A  
Impact on Other Departments: N/A

**Discussion:**

On April 2, 2009, the Library Commission recommended that your Board terminate the County's agreement with the City of Thousand Oaks for the City to provide library services to residents of the unincorporated areas surrounding the city, effective in FY 2009-10. The Library Commission also recommended that your Board adopt a budget

for the Library Agency that did not include funds for the approximate \$190,000 payment associated with the agreement.

However, in June 2009, during the FY 2009-10 County budget hearings, your Board overrode the Commission's recommendation to terminate the agreement but elected to approve the Library's budget without the \$190,000 payment (thus alleviating this cost to the Library system). Your Board also directed County staff to meet with the City of Thousand Oaks to explore options to the current agreement and establish the following six principles as guidelines:

1. We negotiate in a true spirit of cooperation that allows for consideration of win/win solutions that improve library services to all residents through pro-active collaboration and creative thinking;
2. We avoid decreasing the existing funds allocated to libraries in the county system;
3. We avoid the complex calculations of all of the return to source funding arguments. There are too many cross-calculations to be made for that to be efficient for this issue;
4. We do not set precedents that encourage other libraries to begin charging fees or further fragment the library system in Ventura County;
5. We encourage a commitment to free public libraries for all residents of Ventura County;
6. The negotiations are between the County of Ventura and Thousand Oaks.

In October, the County made a \$191,825 payment out of the General Fund to the City of Thousand Oaks for FY 2009-10.

Additionally, over the past months, County staff has met several times with the City of Thousand Oaks to discuss alternatives to the existing agreement. These discussions are ongoing. But to ensure that the current agreement does not automatically renew for another year, we recommend notifying the city before January 1, 2010, that the County is terminating the current agreement effective July 1, 2010, the start of the 2010-2011 fiscal year. This step does not preclude the Board from taking future action to make such a payment, it just avoids the automatic renewal. We recommend continuing discussions and negotiations to explore an alternative agreement pursuant to your Board's adopted principles and return to your Board if any progress is made.

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County Counsel and Library Director have reviewed this letter. If you have any questions, please contact me at 654-3656 or Paul Derse at 662-6792.

Sincerely,



MARTY ROBINSON  
County Executive Officer

Attachment:

Exhibit 1 - 1998 Agreement between the City of Thousand Oaks and the County of Ventura