



Alameda County
LIBRARY
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Jean Hofacket, County Librarian
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DATE

TO: Each Member of the Albany Library Board

FROM: Jean Hofacket, County Librarian

RE: Agreement Between the City of Albany and the County of Alameda for
Additional Hours of Library Service, 2011/2012

Attached is the contract for hours of library service between the City and County for 2011/2012 for your review and recommendation to the City Council. It is imperative that this contract be accepted and signed to avoid cuts in the hours of service at the Albany Library beginning early in 2012.

The contract is for \$690,895 for 41 hours of service. The standard contract and general description of payment for services generally used by the County Library for additional hours is necessary in order to provide the administrative flexibility needed to provide excellent library service in uncertain financial times. It is also necessary in order to allow Library administration and management to explore and implement new, refined and effective service methodologies that support both excellent public service and fiscal conservancy and accountability. There are many ways to provide excellent library service to our communities; it is Library administration's responsibility for creating and implementing them. This standard contract form detailing only the number of hours of service and the cost for those hours without designation of the staffing or service procedures used to provide those services, is the one used with all cities contracting with the Alameda County Library.

In order to move this individual contract forward so that service at the Albany Branch Library can continue uninterrupted at the level described in this contract, the Alameda County Library is willing, for this contract only (2011/2012) to compromise on language that will specify the ideal staffing configuration and levels while also including language protecting the Alameda County Library and equity of service throughout the system in the event of additional losses of revenue during this fiscal year.

Administration
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These one-time exceptions are incorporated in Section 9: Subsections A – D.

- 9) Specific Services Provided: The Projected Cost Schedule attached to this agreement provides for:
 - a) The Albany Library to be open 41 hours a week, excluding County-observed holidays
 - b) The staff to be comprised of 18 positions (full and part time) of which one shall be a librarian with a Masters in Library Science assigned to children's librarian's duties
 - c) The staff hours worked to be equal to 12.05 FTE
 - d) The City recognizes and understands that the Alameda County Library is impacted by the current financial crisis. The Albany Library, along with all other libraries in the Alameda County Library, is not exempt from the decline in general revenues or to decisions that may be implemented by the Alameda County Library in response to additional losses in revenue in Fiscal Year 2011/2012. However, the City will not be charged more if the costs increase or less if the costs decrease for the fiscal year 2011/2012.

The Alameda County Library is committed to a process that will examine the allocation of funding across participating jurisdictions to assure equity for all. This process will, of necessity, be multi-year. During the time between inception and conclusion of this study, contracts with individual jurisdictions will be based on the Library's standard contract and description of services for all participants.

The relationship between the Alameda County Library and the Albany Library Board has been tumultuous at times, but ultimately has been highly beneficial to Albany residents and it is my fervent hope that we will find the compromises and agreements necessary to continue this partnership.

Attachment