

**CITY OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: 5/21/2012  
Reviewed by: BP

**SUBJECT:** Contract with the County of Alameda for Additional Library Services, Fiscal Year 2012/13, in the amount of \$690,895.

**REPORT BY:** Judy Lieberman, Projects Director

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**LIBRARY BOARD RECOMMENDATION**

The Library Advisory Board voted unanimously to recommend approval of the Contract.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Approve contract between the City of Albany and the County of Alameda for Additional Library Services for Fiscal Year July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013.

**BACKGROUND**

The contract amount for FY2012/13 is for \$690,895, the same amount as in the prior year. The contract amount pays for 25.5 additional hours at the Albany branch library, while the remainder, or “base hours” are part of the overall County Library budget. The Library is open a total of 41 hours per week.

The additional hours are purchased by the City from the funds generated by two Library Service parcel taxes. In June 1994, Albany voters approved the Library Services Act of 1994, which assessed a \$42.00 per year tax on single-family residential parcels, and in June 2006, Albany voters approved a supplemental parcel tax of \$24.00, for a total tax of \$66.00. The estimated FY2012/13 revenues from the two parcel taxes are \$709,414.

**DISCUSSION**

The proposed total County budget for the Albany Library is \$1,717,228, an increase of \$40,444 or approximately 2%, over the prior year budget. This is the first budget increase for the Albany Library since FY2008/09. The proposed budget includes 12.74 FTE, and will include a children’s librarian and an additional ½ time page position. Both of these positions should be filled in July 2012, according to Darshan Chattha, Alameda County Library Financial Services Manager.

At its meeting of April 25, 2012, the Albany Library Advisory Board was pleased to see the increases and in particular the children’s librarian position. The Board voted unanimously to recommend the approval of the proposed contract to City Council. The Board members also moved to include information regarding the ongoing County Allocation Project, as follows:

County Allocation Project: Due to concerns regarding the lack of a clear understanding regarding revenue allocations to all of the branches throughout the library system, the County has initiated an allocation project to develop a new methodology regarding revenue allocations among the branch libraries. The County has stated that costs are not developed or tracked on a “return to source” basis for each branch, but that revenues are allocated according to a methodology that factors in property tax and

UUT tax contributions, combined with resident population, non-resident users, and circulation (workload.) The Albany Library Board has been concerned about the past decrease in financial support for the Albany branch and the accompanying high per hour cost for the Albany branch. A report on the status of the Allocation project was provided by Ms. Chadwick, Deputy County Librarian, and by Mr. Chattha at the April 25 Advisory Board meeting. The estimated time frame for the project is nine months, and should be available for the next year's budget cycle. The recommendations of the Allocation Project will be vetted through the Alameda County Technical Advisory Committee. There were some concerns expressed by the Board that the ACTAC is not well attended, and that perhaps another venue might be useful.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The contract payment by the City to the County will be fully covered by the special library taxes collected in fiscal year 2011/2012, and will not impact the City's general fund.

### **Attachments:**

1. Agreement Between the City of Albany and County of Alameda for Additional Library Services Fiscal Year 2013