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August 8, 2012 (Agenda)

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Agenda Item 9

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)
651 Pine Street, Sixth Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

Library Services Municipal Service Review Update

Dear Commissioners:

On July 11th, the Commission received a preliminary report regarding the Library Service Municipal Service Review (MSR). This MSR represents one of the final inaugural reviews for Contra Costa LAFCO.

In July, the MSR consultant provided preliminary information relating to the Library MSR, noting that it will primarily cover two library service providers – City of Richmond and Contra Costa County (including four County Service Areas). The consultant presented preliminary data comparing Contra Costa library facilities, services, and financing to other Bay Area communities.

The Commission received public comment and provided input as to information they would like to see included in the MSR report. A summary of these comments is presented below.

I. Facilities

- a. Verify/update library facility conditions (e.g., Martinez, Antioch, Oakley, Pittsburg, San Ramon, etc.)
- b. Criteria for establishing condition of facilities
- c. Indicate which facilities are city owned
- d. Proximity of libraries to unincorporated communities (GIS assistance needed)

II. Fiscal

- a. Breakdown of city/county revenue including city funding and what it buys
- b. City maintenance funds which do not flow through the County funding system
- c. Clarify "intergovernmental" funding (i.e., grants, etc.)
- d. Maintenance costs and who funds it (i.e., city, county)
- e. County cutbacks and comparison to other counties (e.g., books per capita, programming)

III. Programs/Services

- a. Qualify "books" - does it include in-house and/or online, DVDs, periodicals, etc.
- b. Breakdown of library users by age group
- c. Showcase partnerships between cities and county
- d. Highlight County library innovations, awards
- e. Volunteer support

IV. Miscellaneous

- a. Previous Library bond measure(s)
- b. Adequacy of municipal services
- c. What is an "appropriate library"
- d. Privatization - needs to be part of the discussion
- e. Clarify how visits per capita measured
- f. Information regarding use of computers in libraries
- g. Information regarding multi-use of library facilities

The consultant and LAFCO staff have been working to address these comments. Following the presentation on July 11th, the consultant met with the County Librarian and City of Richmond library staff, and conducted site visits to libraries in the following communities: Richmond, Bay Point, Pittsburg, Antioch, Walnut Creek, and San Ramon. Since then, the County Librarian and the City of Richmond have provided the consultant with a substantial amount of new information. The consultant is compiling the new information and updating the draft report.

We anticipate that the Public Review Draft Library Services MSR will be released in the Fall (September/October 2012).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Receive update and provide comments as desired.

Sincerely,

LOU ANN TEXEIRA
EXECUTIVE OFFICER