

## DRAFT 2

### BACKGROUND REPORT NO. 4

## Library Services

City of Goleta

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

### ORGANIZATION

#### *Facility*

The Goleta library opened at 500 N. Fairview Avenue on January 28, 1973 and has remained virtually unchanged for the past thirty years. The building is 15,437 s.f. covering .35 acres. The total size of the lot is two acres, with 1.48



currently used for the building, landscaping and parking. The additional unused .52 acre is located at the rear of the lot which slopes up a hill and adjoins the Fairview Gardens Farm property. The main reading room contains tables, chairs and shelves with books, magazines, newspapers and videos for loan and other reference material. The number of volumes, which includes all types of materials in addition

to books, is estimated at 90,000. This equates to .96 volumes per capita for the Goleta area, based on a population of 86,539.<sup>1</sup> There are also 8 computers available for use by the public, including 2 located in the children's area.

The room is informally subdivided between the children's and adult sections by the checkout counter and desks for the reference librarian and other staff located in the center of the room. The building also contains a lobby area, a small conference room for approximately 12 - 15 people and a larger meeting room

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<sup>1</sup>The nationwide average for public libraries is 2.8, according to the National Center for Education Statistics "Public Libraries Survey Highlights."

that holds 80-100. There are also several exterior patio areas accessed from the interior of the building which provide additional seating areas in good weather. The building was designed for a capacity of approximately 310 people. The library is open Monday to Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The parking lot includes 47 regular parking spaces, 3 handicapped spaces and 1 space for the bookmobile. The regular parking spaces include 6 spaces reserved for staff. Overflow parking is accommodated through a parking agreement with the First Church of Christ Scientist next door. The church lot contains 62 regular and 2 handicapped spaces and is accessed from the church's driveway on Fairview Avenue. Occasionally, parking spaces in the Goleta Union School District lot across the street are also used for additional overflow parking, although there is no agreement between the library and the school district for this purpose. The library parking lot is also used as an auxiliary access to the Fairview Gardens farmhouse and property, but not for deliveries.

### *Personnel*

There are 7 full-time library employees and 13 part-time employees. Seven of these are 20 hour per week positions and the remaining six work 15 hours per week. In the summertime, 3 additional 20 hour per week employees are also hired. Staff for the Bookmobile consists of one full time employee and one part-time (20 hours per week) employee. Part-time custodial and landscape services for the building are contracted to local businesses.

## **SERVICES**

The library is a part of the City of Santa Barbara public library system and is linked, via computer, with all the other branches in both the City and the County of Santa Barbara. A Goleta library card is valid at all of these other locations and materials from these libraries can be requested and picked up at the Goleta branch.

The Goleta library is popular and heavily used. As of June 2003, 34,562 people held library cards where the Goleta branch is their nearest library. And, in the same month, the "gate count" indicated that 29,303 people had entered the library. In addition, the library is frequently used by many people who work in Goleta, but live in other areas. Commuters from Ventura, Oxnard, Lompoc, Santa Maria and other cities use the library on their lunch hour and after work.

Use of the library continues to increase. Items checked out at the Goleta branch in the month of June 2003 totaled 46,340. In June of 2002 the total was 44,158. Ten years prior the total was 39,279.

## Annual Circulation Figures

Year	Circulation
1990	288,605
1991	384,997
1992	430,606
1993	439,128
1994	444,512
1995	446,439
1996	433,085
1997	467,346
1998	486,408
1999	505,767
2000	506,373

The library offers a number of special programs and services. Both the small and large meeting rooms are used on a regular basis by a wide variety of community groups. For many years there was no charge to use the rooms and they were rarely vacant. About three or four years ago the library began charging for their use. Non-profits are charged \$30 for three hours, plus \$10 for each additional hour for the larger multipurpose room. For-profit groups are charged \$125 for three hours, plus \$50 for each additional hour. Charges for the smaller conference room are \$15 for the first three hours and \$7.50 for each additional hour. The for-profit rate is \$30 for three hours and \$10 for each subsequent hour. The multipurpose room gallery may be rented for \$125 per month.

The library is very youth oriented and offers a number of regular and special programs for children of all ages. There are twice weekly pre-school story hours, a summer reading program and special events with outside performers, (i.e. professional storytellers.) During these special events, the library's capacity is inadequate to hold all the children and parents who would like to attend.

Many children visit the library after school, particularly students attending Goleta Valley Junior High School, located just three blocks away. Some of these students are children of Goleta employees who live outside the area. On average, approximately 15-30 elementary and junior high students will use the Goleta library daily in lieu of after-school daycare, spending anywhere from 2 to 4 hours reading and doing homework while waiting for their parents to pick them up after work.

Once a month the library conducts a class for adults on how to use the computers. The Goleta library's ratio of public computers to population is greater than in other nearby areas, with 1 computer for every 10,817 people.

City	Population	Library Computers	Ratio
Carpinteria	21,016	4	1/5,254
Goleta	86,539	8	1/10,817
Montecito	12,360	4	1/3,090
Santa Barbara	90,428	26	1/3,478
Solvang	19,444	4	1/4,861

The Goleta library, with the Santa Barbara libraries, extends their services to other areas of the community through the use of the Bookmobile. The current Bookmobile was purchased by the City of Santa Barbara two years ago and is parked at the Goleta library when not in use. It travels a regular route Monday through Friday through the Goleta and Santa Barbara areas. In Goleta, it stops at the Goleta Valley Community Center, Ellwood School, Isla Vista School and the UCSB Children's Center on Tuesdays. On Fridays it makes stops at Brandon School, University Village Plaza and the Isla Vista Children's Playground.

## FINANCES

The Goleta Library encompasses a service population of approximately 86,500, which includes the City of Goleta population of approximately 29,500. Funding for Goleta Library services is provided by both the County and the City.

In June 1990, more than 2/3 of the voters in County Service Area #3 (Goleta Valley) approved Measure L, which authorized a special tax to fund enhanced services at the Goleta Library. Upon incorporation of the City of Goleta, the City became the successor to the County and County Service Area #3 within the City of Goleta. The City therefore assumed ownership of the Goleta Library and grounds. The City also assumed responsibility for the provision of library services to the community. The City is currently in discussions with the City of Santa Barbara to enter into an agreement for library services at the Goleta branch.

For fiscal year 2003-04, the City's contribution for library services from Measure L funds is \$179,030, 57% of the total. The County's contribution from Measure L funds is \$133,959, 43% of the total. The County also contributes funding on a per capita basis in addition to Measure L funds. For the 03-04 fiscal year, the County is estimating a per capita contribution of \$5.80, although this amount may be lowered before the County budget is finalized. Over the last few years, budgeted amounts for staffing have increased while amounts for materials have generally decreased. However, due to increasing space constraints there is less and less room to enlarge the total volume of materials at the Goleta branch even if additional funds became available.

The library also receives small amounts of money from the State libraries fund and, occasionally, from local grants, the "Friends of the Goleta Library" organization and other private sources. Total funding from these other sources averages about \$20,000 per year. In addition, the Friends of the Goleta Library will occasionally purchase and donate specific items. For example, they purchased and donated new chairs for the conference and multipurpose rooms that had been selected by library staff. The Goleta library budget for the 02-03 fiscal year was about \$866,000. The budget for 03-04 may not be finalized until November.

In 1999 the County commissioned an AB 1600 Fee Justification Study which was performed by David Taussig and Associates. A part of that study focused on the Goleta library facility. The study concluded that the facility had a current deficit of 155,855 volumes and needed an additional 26,330 square feet of space at an estimated cost of \$6,281,716 (1998 dollars). It also estimated that an additional 22,547 volumes and an additional 3,809 square feet at a cost of \$908,666 (1998 dollars) would be required for new development, assuming a "build-out" scenario in the Goleta Planning Area of 30,028 equivalent dwelling units (EDU's).

Since the AB 1600 Study was adopted by the Board of Supervisors, impact fees for library services assessed on new development have been collected by the County and kept in a fund for future expanded facilities. As no library capital improvement projects were approved by the County, no portion of the money has been spent. The City of Goleta is researching the status of these funds.

## **PLANNING IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CITY OF GOLETA**

The population of the City of Goleta makes up about one-third of the residents which utilize the Goleta library and Bookmobile services. In addition, employees who work in businesses located within the city limits, but live in other areas, also use the library on a regular basis. All of the citizens and employees that work and live within the city limits might benefit from any expansion of service. The City of Goleta should work with the City and County of Santa Barbara to develop a long-range plan for the Goleta library. This plan could address both current and future needs, as well as explore all funding sources which would support a speedy implementation of the plan.