



MEMORANDUM
LIBRARY
County of Placer

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Mary George, Director of Library Services
SUBJECT: Library Services Study Report - Update

DATE: March 28, 2023

ACTION REQUESTED

1. Receive an update on the plan to implement a steady, consistent investment in support of the 2022 Library Services Study.
2. Provide staff direction for future Library Services in the Penryn community.

BACKGROUND

The Placer County Library Services Study Report was published March 2022, and its findings were presented to your Board on May 10, 2022, and included:

Staffing

- Current levels of staffing are not sufficient to maintain current number of library branches safely or adequately.

Facilities

- Branches including Kings Beach and Tahoe City are too small to adequately provide the level of service desired by the community.
- The County should evaluate alternative strategies for delivering library services in Applegate and Penryn as well as the Tahoe basin.

Funding

- Additional funding is needed to maintain and improve our library service delivery.
- Partnership with other entities like Nevada County/Town of Truckee is not feasible until the County has more to bring to the table.

Community Desires

- Community members want libraries open for more hours, more days per week, and access to a wider range of resources and materials.

The Study also recommended a number of fiscal models to sustain and eventually enhance Library Services. With support from the County Executive Office, Library Leadership returned to your Board on September 13, 2022, with a recommendation and a preliminary plan to phase a steady, consistent investment for the future of the Placer County Library system. Initial investment includes service enhancements to the most remote and rural libraries in Foresthill,

Kings Beach, and Tahoe City by adding staffing, public service hours, and library programming to increase accessibility and offer a more robust customer service experience on par with other Placer County Library locations.

FORESTHILL LIBRARY

Progress to date at the Foresthill Library includes a change to the vacant Library Supervisor position to a para-professional Library Specialist. The Library Specialist is trained to offer the community additional outreach and library programming. Additionally, part-time staff were increased to full-time. On February 25, 2023, public service hours were increased from 27.5 hours per week to 38 hours per week. Foresthill Library open hours are now consistent with the Auburn, Colfax, Granite Bay, and Rocklin locations. Public hours are currently Tues, Weds, Thurs 10:00AM-6:00PM, and Fri & Sat 10:00AM-5:00PM.

KINGS BEACH & TAHOE CITY LIBRARIES

Both Library Supervisors in Kings Beach and Tahoe City have been promoted to Library Specialists and are in training to provide enhanced outreach and library programming. The successful promotions of current staff have created vacancies for two Library Supervisors. Following a brief study of the job specification from Placer County Human Resources, recruitments will be underway. Once the Library Supervisor positions are filled, both Tahoe Basin libraries will see increased public service hours and enhanced library programming; remaining part-time staff will be made full-time employees.

PENRYN LIBRARY

In September, your Board directed Library Leadership to gather input from the Penryn community on its library needs. Community engagement with Penryn area residents took place in January and February. This included three 4-hour opportunities to meet in-person with Library Leadership at the Penryn Library to provide feedback as well as an online survey for residents unable to attend in-person sessions. The online survey was available from January 23-February 10.

To support the Board's direction on next steps for the Penryn Library, the Department's presentation will provide you with community feedback from the in-person sessions, survey responses, requested information regarding costs associated with reopening the library, as well as alternative service models in Penryn separate from a staffed physical library location as recommended in the Library Services Study. Alternative service models include Library Mobile Service, book vending machines, holds pickup lockers, and unstaffed open hours.

As the Library continues to plan for service in Fiscal Year 2023-2024, the Department respectfully requests your Board's direction on next steps for the Penryn Library.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item at this time. Pending direction from your Board, Library Administration will return with budget amendments as needed to implement Board recommendations.

ATTACHMENTS

None

On file with Clerk of the Board –
Placer County Library Services Study Full Report
Penryn Library Community Engagement Survey Results

