

TO: James L. App, City Manager
FROM: Ann Robb, Director, Library and Recreation Services
SUBJECT: Public Library Foundation Funding
DATE: December 19, 2006

Needs: For the City Council to consider urging support of full funding for the State Public Library Foundation (PLF) program for fiscal year 2007/2008.

Facts:

1. The Public Library Foundation (Education Code, Title 1, Division 1, Part 11, Chapter 1.5, Articles 1- 4, Sections 18010-18030) supports the State's interest in assuring the availability of an adequate level of public library service. Localities may use the funds from the Foundation to serve the public library purposes stated in the law.
2. PLF funds are appropriated annually in the State budget on a per capita basis. Although the program has been in existence since 1983, it has never been fully funded. In recent years, the Paso Robles City Library allocation has ranged from a high of \$37,950 (2000/01) to a low of \$10,812 (2004/05). At current funding, the 2006/2007 allocation to Paso Robles is estimated to be \$16,655. At full funding it would be \$73,491.
3. Library usage in California is at an all time high. Population has increased in Paso Robles 12% over the last 5 years. During the same time period, the number of library borrowers increased 31%.
4. Paso Robles is a member of the Black Gold (BG) Cooperative Library System is comprised of seven library jurisdictions. In November, the BG citizen advisory board passed a resolution in support of full funding of PLF.
5. At their November meeting, the Library Board of Trustees voted to recommend the City Council urge support for full PLF funding.

ANALYSIS &

CONCLUSION: Public Library Foundation allocations change from year to year, but the program has never been fully funded. Full funding would strengthen city library collections, services and programs, consistent with the 2006 Economic Strategy emphasis on full support of educational opportunities.

POLICY

REFERENCE: Economic Strategy; State Education Code.

FISCAL

IMPACT: Potential increase in revenue. Had PLF been fully funded in the current fiscal year, the City would have received an additional \$56,836.

- OPTIONS:
- a. Adopt Resolution No. 07-xxx and send to Governor Schwarzenegger, Senator Maldonado, Assemblyman Blakeslee and other State officials.
 - b. Amend, modify, or reject above option.

RESOLUTION NO. 07- _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
EL PASO DE ROBLES IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING OF THE STATE OF
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC LIBRARY FUND

WHEREAS, the governor and state legislature established the Public Library Foundation in 1982 to support public library baseline services with an annual revenue allocation from the general fund starting in fiscal year 1983/1984; and

WHEREAS, the legislature found and declared that it is in the interest of the people and of the state that there be a general diffusion of information and knowledge through the continued operation of free public libraries; and

WHEREAS, library usage in California is at an all time high, with population and the number of borrowers up in the City of El Paso de Robles up 12% and 31% respectively, in the past 5 years, and circulation of library materials is up 10% per capita throughout the State during the same time period; and

WHEREAS, the Public Library Foundation allocates revenue to the 180 California public libraries based on a formula that includes population and inflation, but has never been fully funded and in fiscal year 2005/2006 per capita spending on the PLF was less than it was 20 years ago; and

WHEREAS, between fiscal years 2000/01 and 2004/05 actual funding was reduced by 75%; and

WHEREAS, although funding for PLF was increased for the fiscal year 2006/2007 to \$21.36 million, full funding would have been \$94.25 million so that the total estimated allocation to the El Paso de Robles city library will be an estimated \$16,655 instead of \$73,491;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. that the Library Board of Trustees and the City Council of El Paso de Robles urge the Governor, Assembly Member and Senator who represent the city of El Paso de Robles to make libraries a priority by fully funding the Public Library Foundation in the 2007/08 budget.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles this 19th day of December, 2006, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Frank Mecham, Mayor

ATTEST:

Deborah Robinson, Deputy City Clerk