

Library Services Needs and Delivery Study Working Group
Designing the Future of Library Services in Costa Mesa

2901 Palau Place
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
April 9, 2007

City Council of Costa Mesa
P.O. Box 1200
Costa Mesa, CA 92628-1200

Dear Council Members,

In November 2000, the City Council invited community leaders to take part in the design phase of future library services in the community. This process was to be the key in moving forward with the results of the Arroyo Associates "Library Services Needs and Delivery Study" which was delivered to the city in September 2000. The Working Group turned in a report on February 13, 2003.

Members of this group support the concept of developer fees to be applied to a new central library in Costa Mesa.

The need for expanded library services and collections in our community has long been demonstrated. New residential development will increase demands for these services and collections.

However, those members of the Working Group that are still active now wish to go on record as recommending that the size of the library to be built should be 50,000 square feet instead of 20,000 square feet.

Sincerely,



For the Working Group
Mary Ellen Goddard



Supporting Excellence in Library Services

*Mesa Verde Branch Library
2969 Mesa Verde Drive East
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Phone: 714-546-5274*

*Costa Mesa Branch Library
1855 Park Avenue
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
Phone: 949-646-8845*

*Costa Mesa Technology Library
3033 Bristol Avenue, Suite Q
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Phone: 714-754-4431*

Costa Mesa City Council
and the Costa Mesa Planning Commission
P.O. Box 1200
Costa Mesa, CA 92628-1200

Dear Sirs and Madame,

The Friends of the Costa Mesa Libraries are committed to supporting our libraries and would like to state our position on the proposed library development fee.

- The Friends is committed to making our existing, small libraries, the best that they can be. We also advocate bigger facilities so that our libraries can offer more collections and services.
- Our membership grew to more than 650 individuals, families and businesses when we talked about a new library in Costa Mesa, demonstrating our community's desire for more adequate library facilities.
- Our members donate nearly 6000 volunteer hours a year to support the existing branch libraries.
- In the past 12 months, with our bookstores and passport business, our membership dues and donations, the Friends have made more than \$65,000 to support current library programs and needs as well as to help to provide adequate library facilities for our community.

It is not acceptable for Costa Mesa to be so lacking in library facilities when in today's world there is an increasing need for education and knowledge. These are critical components for the success of this city as we work to keep high paying jobs here for our residents to enjoy.

Therefore:

The Friends of the Costa Mesa Libraries supports the adoption of a development fee for library services **as part of a broader plan of action on the part of the city to address the library shortfall in Costa Mesa.**

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Goddard
President



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City Council of Costa Mesa
P.O. Box 1200
Costa Mesa, CA 92628-1200

Dear Council Members,

The Friends of the Costa Mesa Libraries supports the idea of a development impact fee to be applied toward the construction of a Main Library in Costa Mesa.

The need for expanded library collections and services in Costa Mesa has been demonstrated for many years by a city-financed report "The Arroyo Report," several city-sponsored committees, and citizen input. Despite the addition of the Costa Mesa Technical Library (2,400 sq. ft.), the city still has the smallest square footage of library space of any comparably sized city in California. With added demands generated by new construction of housing units, the shortfall will only be more apparent.

The Friends wish to point out that the new main library should be at least 50,000 square feet in size. Together with our two small branch libraries, our citizens would then have more adequate library collections and services.

Our Friends of the Costa Mesa Libraries has this past year begun two businesses so that we can not only better support our present three libraries, but also put money aside for a new Main Library. The development fee will help to assure that a new library will be built.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ellen Goddard".

Mary Ellen Goddard
President

Benchmark cities – for their MAIN libraries (not including branches)

City	Old size (in 1998)	Population	New size	Population	Date open	Planned
Burbank	44,680	104,000				
Downey	27,400	99,700				
Newport Beach	54,000	72,600				
San Mateo	36,000	93,600	90,000	92,482	8/27/2006	
Santa Clara	41,225	101,900	80,000	102,361	2004-5	
Ventura	45,088	101,500				
Thousand Oaks	69,000	115,700	91,000	126,081	6/2006	
Escondido	40,000	123,100				86,000
Fullerton	45,000	125,100	56,000	131,249		
Orange	22,000	125,100	50,000	132,000	2006	
Irvine	29,100 (In 2 branch libraries)	133,200			2008	39,000 (In 3 branch libraries)

The average square footage for these 11 benchmark cities (as selected in the Arroyo Report that was commissioned by the City of Costa Mesa) is now 55,206.

As stated, these (except for Irvine) are only the statistics for the Main libraries in these benchmark cities. Most of the cities also have branch libraries that would add to the total of library square footage in their cities.