

October 20, 2006

The Honorable Bill Bogaard and City Council
117 E. Colorado Blvd., 6th Floor
Pasadena, CA 91105

Dear Mayor Bogaard and Council Members:

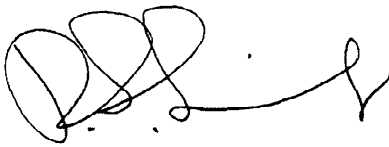
The Pasadena Public Library Future Funding Task Force is pleased to transmit herewith a report containing its recommendation for the future funding of the Pasadena Public Library.

We have appreciated the opportunity to provide this service to the Library and look forward to making a formal presentation to the City Council at a meeting in Early November.

Enclosed with this letter for your reference are some of the key points of our recommendation. More detailed descriptions of our recommendation and the basis for concluding that it is the best approach to the future funding of the Library are contained in the body of the report.

If there are any questions that the Task Force can address prior to our presentation to the Council, please forward them to the Task Force via the Director of Information Services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ross Selvidge', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ross Selvidge, Chair
Pasadena Public Library Future Funding Task Force

Enclosure:

11/06/2006
5.B.4.

PASADENA PUBLIC LIBRARY FUTURE FUNDING TASK FORCE KEY POINTS OF RECOMMENDATION

1. Essentially, the Task Force's recommendation is that the Library continue to be funded principally by a combination of a Special Tax and a minimum Threshold Amount appropriated from the General Fund.
2. Most the generic aspects of the current Special Tax would remain the same (e.g., a required Threshold Amount General Fund appropriation, parcel taxes, CPI adjustments, exemptions, and City support services).
3. Both the Threshold Amount and the tax rates would each have a one-time step-up at the beginning of FY 2009, the first year after the expiration of the current Special Tax.
4. These one-time increases account for some changes in the nature of the Library services since the Special Tax was implemented in 1994 and some cost increases in excess of the CPI adjustments.
5. Although there would be a one-time step-up in the Threshold Amount at the beginning of FY 2009, the total General Fund appropriation would be approximately the same as that for the previous year, FY 2008.
6. The Task Force views the current Special Tax as an arrangement that has been successful and which should be extend it for a longer term.
7. The term would be for 15 years beyond the June 2008 expiration of the current Special Tax. This would effectively accomplish a seamless transition from the current ten-year Special Tax program.
8. A key element of this recommendation is the continued link between citizens agreeing to pay the tax and their receiving the current level of Library services in return. The citizens who are being asked to approve a continuation of the Special Tax should have a high degree of confidence that the level of services will continue to be provided. The Task Force believes that having that confidence is *essential* for public support. Citizens are not just being asked to fund *some* portion of a budget that will produce *some* level of service.
9. As with the current Special Tax, in future years, if the City does *not* appropriate the required Threshold Amount from the General Fund and therefore does not make likely a continuation of the current level of Library services, the Special Tax can *not* be levied.