

# **NEVADA COUNTY LIBRARY A GOLDEN CARNEGIE LEGACY**

## **REASON FOR INVESTIGATION**

The Nevada County Civil Grand Jury has the responsibility to investigate the functions of government and tax-supported agencies within the County. The Grand Jury elected to review the Nevada County Library and determine if its services meet the needs of a growing community.

## **BACKGROUND**

The State of California groups public libraries into 7 categories by population. The Nevada County Library is in Group 4, serving a population between 60,000 and 100,000 people.

There are six Nevada County Library locations:

- Doris Foley Library of Historical Research
- Grass Valley Library-Royce Branch
- Truckee Library
- Madelyn Helling Library
- Penn Valley Library
- Bear River Library

### **The Nevada City – Doris Foley Library of Historical Research**

On December 19, 1857, a far-sighted group of men in the little mining town of Nevada City initiated a plan for a public library association. Gifts from six residents of the city set in motion the libraries Nevada County enjoys today. The first library was housed on the corner of Broad and Pine Streets in the Kidd and Knox building. Within two years it had accumulated over 1000 books.

In 1901 the Andrew Carnegie Foundation contributed \$10,000 for the construction of a new library building located on the corner of Pine and York Streets. On October 4, 1907, a festive formal opening of the Nevada City Library was held with many citizens donating cash, furniture, and books to the new library.

In August 1972, the Nevada City, Grass Valley and Truckee Libraries were incorporated into the new Nevada County Library system. In 1997 the Nevada City Library was renamed the Doris Foley Library of Historical Research. It remains a research library that houses a wealth of information on the history of Nevada County.

### **The Grass Valley Library**

The Grass Valley Library was built in 1916 on Mill Street near Neal Street. It too received a construction grant of \$10,000 from the Carnegie Foundation. In 1992 the library was listed in the National Register of Historical Places and was renamed the Grass Valley Library-Royce Branch in 2005.

### **The Truckee Library**

The Truckee Library opened in 1970. It was located at several sites until a library building was constructed in 1976. The library expanded in 1985 and again in 2003 adding more space for circulation materials and a new children's reading area.

### **Madelyn Helling Library**

The Madelyn Helling Library, opened in 1991, is the main Nevada County library. Madelyn Helling, who was then the Nevada County Librarian, was instrumental in obtaining several grants for the construction of the library located at the County Government Center in Nevada City. Her 17 years of leadership proved to be very valuable in the growth of the Nevada County Library.

### **The Penn Valley Library**

The Penn Valley Library was added to the Nevada County Library in March 2002. It is located in a leased facility on Pleasant Valley Road. The library is open two days a week and has experienced significant increases in circulation.

### **The Bear River Library**

In August 2002, the Bear River High School and the Nevada County Library joined forces and opened a new library. It provides services to the Bear River High School students and limited hours to the general public.

## **METHOD OF INVESTIGATION**

The Grand Jury inspected the six county libraries with tours provided by librarians and the Nevada County Librarian. The Grand Jury reviewed and compared the library budget allocations from fiscal year (FY) 2000-2001 through FY 2005-2006. The County Librarian and several Branch Librarians were interviewed. Previous Grand Jury library reports were reviewed.

## FINDINGS

1. In FY 2004-2005 all libraries in Nevada County had a combined annual circulation of approximately 650,000<sup>1</sup> books, books on tape and CD, videos, CD's, DVD's, and magazines. This is a 4.5% increase from FY 2003-2004<sup>2</sup> and a 230% increase from FY 1997-1998<sup>3</sup>.
2. The Nevada County Library currently employs a staff of 28.85 Full Time Equivalency (FTE) to serve three full service libraries, two part-time station libraries, one historical research library, and a literacy service. The library staff has experienced a net reduction of 5.00 FTE from FY 2002-2003.
3. In 2002 the voters approved Measure "C", a countywide 1/8<sup>th</sup> cent sales tax augmentation to improve library services. In FY 2005-2006, it will provide an estimated \$1,570,000, approximately two-thirds of the annual library revenues. Measure "C" expires in FY 2018-2019.
4. The County General Fund allocated \$685,900 to Library Services in FY 2005-2006. This included a one-time special allocation of \$120,000 toward the purchase of books and materials, and for carpet replacement. The annual County library allocations, as illustrated in Table A, have not changed significantly over the past 5 years.

Table A

Nevada County Budget – General Fund Library Allocations

2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
\$573,708	\$601,502	\$601,402	\$565,902	\$570,902	\$685,902

5. Fund Balance Reserves are intended for unusual financial circumstances such as sales tax receipt fluctuations, and/or to provide matching funds for potential future facility expansions. Table B lists the annual increases and decreases to the Library Fund Balance Reserve. After adding to these reserves for several years, the Library has been using these funds for normal operational expenditures since FY 2002-2003.

Table B

Annual Increases/Decreases to Library Fund Balance Reserve<sup>4</sup>

1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
\$101,264	\$176,348	\$32,315	(-\$106,727)	(-\$172,827)	(-\$84,207)	(-\$120,484)
Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Projected	Proposed

<sup>1</sup> Nevada County Library Circulation Statistics, FY 2004-2005

<sup>2</sup> California State Public Library Services, FY 2003-2004

<sup>3</sup> California State Public Library Services, FY 1997-1998

<sup>4</sup> County Budget Library Overview, FY 2005-2006

6. Table C illustrates the annual Nevada County Library allocations from the State of California. There has been a significant decrease in those allocations from FY 2001-2002 to the present.

Table C

State Library Allocations to Nevada County Library<sup>5</sup>

1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
\$247,213	\$292,229	\$323,051	\$137,509	\$125,770	\$75,160	\$75,160
Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Projected	Proposed

7. The data in Table D lists productivity and performance indicators of the Nevada County Library compared to other California public libraries throughout the state.

Table D

FY 2003-2004 Data<sup>6</sup>

	Nevada County Library	Statewide Average <sup>7</sup>
Annual Operating Expenditures	\$1,476,754	\$5,632,166
Annual expenditures per capita	\$15.37	\$27.35
Annual materials expenditures per capita	\$1.15	\$2.81
Number of Books	174,902	391,537
Total books per capita	1.83	2.15
Annual total materials available for circulation per capita	1.94	2.32

8. The data in Table E compares and ranks the Nevada County Library with the other 32 Libraries in Group 4<sup>8</sup>.

Table E

FY 2003-2004<sup>9</sup>

	Total Revenue Per Capita	Children Material Expenditures Per Capita	FTE Staff Per 10,000 Population	Annual Circulation Per Capita	Annual Open Service Hours Per Capita
Group 4 Median	\$28.30	\$0.64	4.6	6.27	674
Nevada County	\$17.31	\$0.35	3.0	6.57	1,407
Nevada County Ranking	27 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>

<sup>5</sup> County Budget Library Overview, FY 2005-2006

<sup>6</sup> Fiscal Year 2003-2004 is the most recent year for which these library statistics are available.

<sup>7</sup> Average of 175 California public library systems.

<sup>8</sup> Group 4: Libraries serving populations ranging from 60,000 to 100,000.

<sup>9</sup> The comparison indicators are based on data for FY 2003-2004, the most recent year that statistics are available for all 33 Group 4 Libraries.

9. The Nevada County Library's annual population served per FTE staff is 3,378 compared to the statewide average of 2,995. The six library locations and the literacy service are open to the public a total of 13,520 hours per year, 1,000 hours more than the next highest library in Group 4.
10. There are approximately 62,000 active library cardholders, or about 65% of the total county population.
11. The Grass Valley, Penn Valley and Doris Foley Libraries are extremely short on space for circulation materials, reading areas and computers. In addition there is a lack of adequate parking at the Grass Valley and Doris Foley Libraries.
12. Library facility requirements are not addressed in the *Nevada County Facilities Master Plan 1988-2020*. The County updates this plan annually, however, it has not addressed library facility needs for additional space in each Master Plan revision.
13. The library provides literacy services to the general public at no cost to the participants. A half-time Literacy Coordinator was reinstated in the FY 2004-2005 County budget. The coordinator oversees a tutorial staff of over 40 volunteers, many of whom are retired teachers.
14. The literacy program actively advertises to reach prospective students, many of whom are reluctant to admit their reading and writing difficulties. There are currently about 35 participants in the literacy program.
15. The literacy program utilizes *AmeriCorps* volunteers who actively solicit small and medium businesses to encourage their employees with reading problems to contact the library for help.
16. The Nevada County Library and The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools sponsor a countywide community reading program called *Nevada County Reads*. The project's goal is to encourage the entire community to read and discuss with others a selected work of literature.
17. *The Friends of the Nevada County Library* and *The Friends of the Truckee Library* are volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations with over four hundred members. They collect and sell used books, seek out gifts of materials, services, monetary contributions, and raise funds for the purchase of new books and source materials.
18. *The Nevada County Library Foundation* accepts, manages and disburses funds from gifts and bequests. This volunteer organization helps the Library sustain a level of excellence and expands resources, public services, and facilities.
19. The Library provides children's activities at each location. These include reading programs and materials for toddlers, pre-school children, elementary grade youths, teens and young adults.

20. The *Paws to Read at the Library* program is a unique way of reaching out to children who are reluctant readers. It provides a child an opportunity to read to a “Therapy Dog” in an unthreatening environment.

## CONCLUSIONS

1. The Nevada County Library is well managed and allocates resources effectively compared to libraries throughout the state. The scope of services provided, the public support evidenced by the numbers of patrons visiting the libraries, the large and active circulation of books and materials, are indicative of a highly successful library system and program.
2. The Nevada County Library revenues rank near the bottom when compared to the operating budgets of other libraries in Group 4.<sup>C1</sup>
3. The Nevada County Library is under-budgeted, and therefore, must rely on its reserve funds for normal operations. The Library should be in a financial position to save these funds for unforeseen circumstances and future facility expansions.
4. The decrease in the library allocations from the State of California has had a detrimental effect on the Nevada County Library.
5. The Nevada County Library has fewer available books per capita, ranking it near the bottom when compared to other libraries in Group 4.
6. The Nevada County Library staff ratios rank near the bottom when compared to other libraries in Group 4.
7. In spite of the fact that three locations are significantly space limited and “bursting at the seams”, the annual *Nevada County Facilities Master Plan* does not include library expansion in the scope of future facility needs.
8. An increase in open hours would improve library services and accessibility to more citizens of Nevada County.
9. The literacy program, while underutilized, is valuable to the community. It enlists numerous volunteer instructors, and could be expanded.
10. Library facilities designated for children and their corresponding programs are exemplary, well staffed and extensively used. The *Paws to Read* program is an example of a great way to help reluctant reading children want to read.

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<sup>C1</sup> Group 4: Libraries serving populations ranging from 60,000 to 100,000.

11. *The Nevada County Friends of the Library, The Friends of the Truckee Library, and The Nevada County Library Foundation* are unique volunteer organizations that contribute to a variety of Library projects. Their programs are commendable in terms of longevity, consistent substantial fund raising, and broad services support to the Libraries.
12. *The Nevada County Reads* project is a valuable service to the community.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Board of Supervisors should continue to support the Nevada County Library by augmenting the Library General Fund budget as specific needs are identified and defined.
2. The Board of Supervisors should petition the State of California to reinstate library allocations to fiscal year 2001-2002 levels.
3. The Board of Supervisors should seek other sources of revenues for Library services.
4. The Board of Supervisors should fund additional library staff as required to increase library open hours in the branch satellite libraries and extend the weekend hours coverage in the three main libraries.
5. The Board of Supervisors should fund the expansion of the literacy program with the reinstatement of the Literacy Coordinator to a full time position.
6. The Board of Supervisors should draw attention to illiteracy in the County and provide the means for the expansion of services to participants in the literacy program.
7. The Board of Supervisors should ensure that children's programs are provided adequate staff, physical space, books, films, materials and equipment.
8. The Board of Supervisors should ensure that future Library Facilities requirements are an integral part of the County's Capital Facilities Master Plan.

## **RESPONSES REQUIRED**

Board of Supervisors

August 28,2006

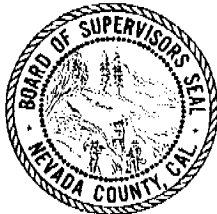
# COUNTY OF NEVADA

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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August 8, 2006

The Honorable Judge Al Dover  
Presiding Judge of the Nevada County Courts  
Nevada County Court House  
Nevada City CA 95959

Subject: Board of Supervisors Responses to the 2005-2006 Nevada County Civil Grand Jury Report,  
Nevada County Library – A Golden Carnegie Legacy

Dear Judge Dover:

The attached responses by the Board of Supervisors to the 2005-2006 Nevada County Civil Grand Jury Report, dated May 30, 2006, entitled *Nevada County Library – A Golden Carnegie Legacy*, are submitted as required by California Penal Code §933.

These responses to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations were approved by the Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting on August 8, 2006. Responses to Findings and Recommendations are based on either personal knowledge, examination of official County records, information received from the County Executive Officer, or from the Board of Supervisors and County staff members.

The Board of Supervisors would like to thank the members of the 2005-2006 Grand Jury for their participation and effort in preparing their Reports, and their participation in the Grand Jury process.

Sincerely,

Nathan H. Beason  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attachment

cc: Foreman, Grand Jury  
Rick Haffey, County Executive Officer  
Nevada County Librarian

received  
8/15/06



NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESPONSES TO  
2005-2006 CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT  
DATED MAY 30, 2006

*Received APO 2/15/06*

NEVADA COUNTY LIBRARY – A GOLDEN CARNEGIE LEGACY

*Responses to findings and recommendations are based on either personal knowledge, examination of official county records, review of the responses by the County Executive Officer, County Librarian, or testimony from the Board of Supervisors and county staff members.*

**I. GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION:**

**Nevada County Library – A Golden Carnegie Legacy.**

**A. RESPONSE TO FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Findings:**

1. In FY 2004-2005 all libraries in Nevada County had a combined annual circulation of approximately 650,000<sup>1</sup> books, books on tape and CD, videos, CD's, DVD's, and magazines. This is a 4.5% increase from FY 2003-2004<sup>2</sup> and a 230% increase from FY 1997-1998<sup>3</sup>.

Agree

2. The Nevada County Library currently employs a staff of 28.85 Full Time Equivalency (FTE) to serve three full service libraries, two part-time station libraries, one historical research library, and a literacy service. The library staff has experienced a net reduction of 5.00 FTE from FY 2002-2003.

Agree

Prior to the passage of Measure B in 1997-98 (Measure C's predecessor), the Library had a total of 12 FTE's.

3. In 2002 the voters approved Measure "C", a countywide 1/8<sup>th</sup> cent sales tax augmentation to improve library services. In FY 2005-2006, it will provide an estimated \$1,570,000, approximately two-thirds of the annual library revenues. Measure "C" expires in FY 2018-2019.

Partially agree.

Measure "C", the 1/8<sup>th</sup> cent sales tax augmentation to improve library services brought an estimated \$1.7 million in revenues to the library in 2005-06.

<sup>1</sup> Nevada County Library Circulation Statistics, FY 2004-2005

<sup>2</sup> California State Public Library Services, FY 2003-2004

<sup>3</sup> California State Public Library Services, FY 1997-1998

4. **The County General Fund allocated \$685,900 to Library services in FY 2005-2006. This included a one-time special allocation of \$120,000 toward the purchase of books and materials, and for carpet replacement. The annual County Library allocations, as illustrated in Table A, have not changed significantly over the past 5 years.**

Table A  
Nevada County Budget – General Fund Library Allocations

2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
\$573,708	\$601,502	\$601,402	\$565,902	\$570,902	\$685,902

Partially agree. See Table A below for adjusted allocations:

Table A  
Nevada County Budget – General Fund Library Allocations

2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
\$565,902	\$565,902	\$565,902	\$565,902	\$570,902	\$685,902

\* In addition, \$300,000 in 04-05 and \$125,000 in 05-06 was contributed from General Fund for an offset in cost plan charges.

5. **Fund Balance Reserves are intended for unusual financial circumstances such as sales tax receipt fluctuations, and/or to provide matching funds for potential future facility expansions. Table B lists the annual increases and decreases to the Library Fund Balance Reserve. After adding to these reserves for several years, the Library has been using these funds for normal operational expenditures since FY 2002-2003.**

Table B  
Annual Increases/Decreases to Library Fund Balance Reserve<sup>4</sup>

1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
\$101,264 Actual	\$176,348 Actual	\$32,315 Actual	(-\$106,727) Actual	(-\$172,827) Actual	(-\$84,207) Projected	(-\$120,484) Proposed

Partially agree.

Fund balance reserves are usually used for unusual financial circumstances or one-time expenditures. In 2002-03 and 2003-04 the use of reserves reflects capital project expenditures for the Truckee Library expansion project. During 2004-2005 audited financial statements indicate that \$145,229 was added to Library reserves. Projections for 2005-06 indicate \$250,000 will be added to Library fund balance reserves at June 30, 2006 and the total Library

<sup>4</sup> County Budget Library Overview, FY 2005-2006

fund balance is expected to be \$1,031,250 at the close of the 2005/06 fiscal year. See Table B below for details.

Table B  
Annual Increases/Decreases to Library Fund Balance Reserve<sup>5</sup>

1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
\$101,264 Actual	\$176,348 Actual	\$32,315 Actual	(-\$106,727) Actual	(-\$172,827) Actual	\$145,229 Actual	\$259,251 Estimated

6. **Table C illustrates the annual Nevada County Library allocations from the State of California. There has been a significant decrease in those allocations from FY 2001-2002 to the present.**

Table C  
State Library Allocations to Nevada County Library<sup>6</sup>

1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
\$247,213 Actual	\$292,229 Actual	\$323,051 Actual	\$137,509 Actual	\$125,770 Actual	\$75,160 Projected	\$75,160 Proposed

Agree

7. **The data in Table D lists productivity and performance indicators of the Nevada County Library compared to other California public Libraries throughout the state.**

Table D  
FY 2003-2004 Data<sup>7</sup>

	Nevada County Library	Statewide Average <sup>8</sup>
Annual Operating Expenditures	\$1,476,754	\$5,632,166
Annual expenditures per capita	\$15.37	\$27.35
Annual materials expenditures per capita	\$1.15	\$2.81
Number of Books	174,902	391,537
Total books per capita	1.83	2.15
Annual total materials available for circulation per capita	1.94	2.32

Agree

The productivity and performance indicators measure the amount of materials available and library spending per capita rather than customer satisfaction and service with library programs and operations that may not directly correlate with the size of library budgets, especially when

<sup>5</sup> County Budget Library Overview, FY 2005-2006

<sup>6</sup> County Budget Library Overview, FY 2005-2006

<sup>7</sup> Fiscal Year 2003-2004 is the most recent year for which these library statistics are available

<sup>8</sup> Average of 175 California public library systems

compared to a statewide average that includes county, city, and district public libraries. Out of 179 public libraries, there are 49 county and 115 city libraries. Of these, 15 are either combined or district-run, all with varying government functions and resources available to them. County governments support more functions than cities and library districts. County discretionary resources must support more services, limiting the value of statewide comparisons especially when the majority of the libraries in the pool are cities that have greater discretion over their municipal budgets.

2003-2004 County Library Data

	Nevada County	Median
<b>Annual expenditures per capita</b>	22.77	19.75
<b>Annual materials expenditures per capita</b>	1.85	1.79
<b>Total books per capita</b>	1.83	1.83
<b>Population served per FTE</b>	3,378	4,498

8. **The data in Table E compares and ranks the Nevada County Library with the other 32 Libraries in Group 4<sup>9</sup>.**

Table E  
FY 2003-2004<sup>10</sup>

	Total Revenue Per Capita	Children Material Expenditures Per Capita	FTE Staff Per 10,000 Population	Annual Circulation Per Capita	Annual Open Service Hours Per Capita
Group 4 Median	\$28.30	\$0.64	4.6	6.27	674
Nevada County	\$17.31	\$0.35	3.0	6.57	1,407
Nevada County Ranking	27 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	3rd

Agree

Group 4 includes five counties and 17 cities. Nevada County ranks highest in almost all categories when compared to the other four counties in this group (see attachment A).

9. **The Nevada County Library's annual population served per FTE staff is 3,378 compared to the statewide average of 2,995. The six library locations and the Literacy Service are open to the public a total of 13,520 hours per year; 1,000 hours more than the next highest library in Group 4.**

Agree

<sup>9</sup> Group 4: Libraries serving populations ranging from 60,000 to 100,000

<sup>10</sup> The comparison indicators are based on data for FY 2003-2004, the most recent year that statistics are available for all 33 Group 4 libraries.

While Nevada County's annual population per FTE staffing is 3,378 compared to the statewide average of 2,995 for 2003-2004, this improves when compared to the statewide county average, which is 4,585. Nevada County ranks third in open hours per capita among Group 4 libraries. When compared to county libraries statewide, Nevada County's hours of operations rank 15th out of 49 counties. The high number of service hours is partially due to the fact that Nevada County has 6 facilities, more than almost any other library system in Group 4. With the move of Literacy Service from a separate location to the Madelyn Helling Library in 2004-2005, the Nevada County Library offers 11,232 public service hours per year according to the latest 2006 edition of *California Library Statistics*. The number of annual public service hours the Library offers is still very high. In fact, it is the second highest amount in Group 4 of the brand new edition.

(See Response to Recommendation No. 4)

- 10. There are approximately 62,000 active library cardholders, or about 65% of the total county population.**

Agree

- 11. The Grass Valley, Penn Valley and Doris Foley Libraries are extremely short on space for circulation materials, reading areas and computers. In addition, there is a lack of adequate parking at the Grass Valley and Doris Foley Libraries.**

Agree

- 12. Library facility requirements are not addressed in the Nevada County Facilities Master Plan 1988-2020. The County updates this plan annually, however it has not addressed library facility needs for additional space in each Master Plan revision.**

Agree

- 13. The Library provides literacy services to the general public at no cost to the participants. A half-time Literacy Coordinator was reinstated in the FY 2004-2005 County budget. The coordinator oversees a tutorial staff of over 40 volunteers, many of whom are retired teachers.**

Agree

- 14. The Literacy program actively advertises to reach prospective students, many of who are reluctant to admit their reading and writing difficulties. There are currently about 35 participants in the literacy program.**

Agree

15. **The literacy programs utilize AmeriCorps volunteers who actively solicit small and medium businesses to encourage their employees with reading problems to contact the library for help.**

Agree

16. **The Nevada County Library and the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools sponsor a countywide community reading program called Nevada County Reads. The project's goal is to encourage the entire community to read and discuss with others a selected work of literature.**

Agree

17. **The Friends of the Nevada County Library and The Friends of the Truckee Library are volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations with over four hundred members. They collect and sell used books, seek out gifts of materials, services, monetary contributions, and raise funds for the purchase of new books and source materials.**

Agree

18. **The Nevada County Library Foundation accepts, manages and disburses funds from gifts and bequests. This volunteer organization helps the Library sustain a level of excellence and expands resources, public services, and facilities.**

Agree

19. **The Library provides children's activities at each location. These include reading programs and materials for toddlers, pre-school children, elementary grade youths, teens and young adults.**

Agree

20. **The *Paws to Read at the Library* program is a unique way of reaching out to children who are reluctant readers. It provides a child an opportunity to read to a "Therapy Dog" in an unthreatening environment.**

Agree

## **Recommendations:**

- 1. The Board of Supervisors should continue to support the Nevada County Library by augmenting the Library General Fund budget as specific needs are identified and defined.**

This recommendation has been implemented.

The Board of Supervisors provides additional resources for unmet needs identified by the Library during the budget process. The Board must weigh these needs against other competing priorities. All County departments submit their unmet needs during the budget process, where they are considered and prioritized. Due to limited resources, not all unmet needs are funded. However, in 2004-05, an additional \$5,000 was provided to the Library to fund the summer intern program and \$300,000 to support cost plan charges. In 2005-06, \$120,000 in general funds was provided to purchase materials and replace carpet, and \$125,000 to offset cost plan charges.

- 2. The Board of Supervisors should petition the State of California to reinstate library allocations to fiscal year 2001-2002 levels.**

This recommendation will not be implemented.

During the California Library Association's Library Legislative Day in Sacramento earlier in the year the Nevada County Librarian, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, visited the offices of State Legislators to advocate for increased funding for public libraries through the Public Library Fund (PLF) and transaction-based reimbursement (TBR). Packets of information were left with, and follow-up letters sent to, the legislative offices.

The PLF has never been fully funded in its history, but its high-water mark was 2000/2001 when it reached \$56 million statewide. During 2001/2002, the statewide PLF amount was \$52,970,000 and Nevada County Library's share was \$143,087. Both amounts are far above what the public libraries in the state and Nevada County Library can respectively expect to receive during 2006/2007, even with the \$7 million above the original \$7 million request statewide contained in the Governor's May Revise budget. As it now stands, the statewide PLF amount is expected to be \$14 million and the Nevada County Library should receive about \$36,000, which is about \$18,000 over the original request. In addition, the May Revise contains another additional \$7 million for TBR that will support the inter-library loan program. This enhancement may provide upwards of \$5,000 for the Nevada County Library.

- 3. The Board of Supervisors should seek other sources of revenues for Library services.**

This recommendation has been implemented.

The Friends of the Nevada County Libraries, The Friends of the Truckee Library and the Nevada County Library Foundation are consistently raising funds for library uses, and the Board continues to seek new funding opportunities for all County programs, including the Library.

4. **The Board of Supervisors should fund additional library staff as required to increase library open hours in the branch satellite libraries and extend the weekend hours coverage in the three main libraries.**

This recommendation has been implemented.

The Board has approved an additional \$85,000 in temporary salaries for the Library's FY 06/07 Budget. In addition, the Nevada County Library is open more service hours than any other county library of similar population size and provides more public service hours than almost any other public library in Group 4 of the California Library Statistics, 2005. Of the 33 public libraries in Group 4, which includes counties, cities and districts, Nevada County ranks third in the number of hours open per 100 population. In looking at expenditures per capita, the top two libraries (Palo Alto and Newport Beach) with more operating hours than Nevada County have operating funds 4-5 times that of Nevada County.

5. **The Board of Supervisors should fund the expansion of the literacy program with the reinstatement of the Literacy Coordinator to a full time position.**

This recommendation will not be implemented at this time.

The Literacy Program originated as a grant-funded program through the California Library Literacy Service Act. Originally, the grant funds were sufficient to fund the program in its entirety. In 1999, Nevada County Library received \$400,000 over a five year period but as grant funding was reduced, so was the program. Today, the funding expected for 2006/07 will be \$30,000, and is a percentage match depending upon local monies raised. Currently, the Library operates a half-time program utilizing county funds and the grant funding available. The program has been sustained another year due to the fiscal prudence the Library has shown by moving the program to the Madelyn Helling Library and reducing overhead costs. The number of learners in the Literacy Service has remained relatively static, at around 40 at any given time, for the last few years. One-on-one Literacy Service is relatively expensive, and County funds coupled with State Library funds spent during 2005/2006 totaled \$60,000.

Should the need increase, and as additional grant funding may become available, the Board of Supervisors would then consider expansion of the Literacy program and staffing as appropriate.

6. **The Board of Supervisors should draw attention to illiteracy in the County and provide the means for the expansion of services to participants in the literacy program.**

This recommendation will be implemented by January 2007.

The Nevada County Library is currently advertising this program. Specifically, the Literacy Coordinator has used a grant from the Tahoe-Truckee Community Foundation to pay for media advertising Truckee and Western Nevada County. Plans to be completed by January 2007



include more programming with community access television, the development of an article for mynevadacounty.com and more coverage from local radio and newspapers.

- 7. The Board of Supervisors should ensure that children's programs are provided adequate staff, physical space, books, films, materials and equipment.**

The recommendation has been implemented.

The Nevada County Library staffing ratios compare very favorably with other County libraries in Group 4. It's important to add that Nevada County Library offers more locations and open hours than the other County Libraries in Group 4. The Truckee Library was expanded with County funds in 2004. Most of the new addition went for an expanded children's area. Although all of the areas at the Grass Valley Library-Royce Branch location are small, the children's room at the historic location occupies almost the entire downstairs area of the branch. The situation is similar for the Doris Foley Library for Historical Research. The facility isn't that spacious for school class visits but, unfortunately, space is at a premium for all visitors of the Library. The Bear River and Penn Valley Library stations, although not full-service libraries, do serve to extend library services to adults and children living in the unincorporated areas of the County. In addition, Nevada County ranks highest in available children's materials per capita among other Group 4 County libraries and above the average overall.

- 8. The Board of Supervisors should ensure that future Library Facilities requirements are an integral part of the County's Capital Facilities Master Plan.**

The recommendation will be implemented by January 2007.

While Library Facility needs were not included in the plan approved by the Board in January 2006, they will be added to the facilities list for consideration in 2007. The 2006 Capital Facilities Master Plan approved by the Board in January 2006 acknowledges in its executive summary that the plan is intended to be a "Living Document" and a tool to be reevaluated and refined annually as new information, needs and resources are identified. Although not formalized in a Capital Facilities Plan, the Board has continually supported Library facility needs and supported Library facility funding opportunities. In 2003, the Board approved an application for State Bond funding under Proposition 14, the Library Bond Act of 2000, for the expansion of the Grass Valley Branch. It was not funded. Only 16 out of 66 projects were funded that year. In 2002, the Board approved the Truckee Children's Library expansion project which was completed October 2003.

## **REQUIRED RESPONSES**

Board of Supervisors – by August 28, 2006