

May 20, 2003

Honorable Mayor and Members of
the Hermosa Beach City Council

Regular Meeting of
May 27, 2003

**LETTER OF MARGARET DONNELLAN TODD REGARDING A PROPOSED
REDUCTION IN HOURS OF OPERATION FOR THE HERMOSA BEACH
LIBRARY BECAUSE OF LOSS OF COUNTY GENERAL FUND SUPPORT,
FROM 5 DAYS/35 HOURS TO 4 DAYS/28 HOURS**

Recommendation:

That the City Council review the letter proposing the reduction in hours and draft a letter to our Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knobe expressing the City's concern about the proposed cut back of Library hours.

Background:

The letter from the County Librarian is attached. The County has, over the last few years, provided a "general fund" allocation of monies to the library system in addition to the property tax that the system receives directly. The proposed 2003/04 County Budget contains a reduction of \$7.3 million that has been allocated to the library system. The County Librarian has proposed a number of service reductions in order to make up for this proposed budget short fall. The impact on Hermosa Beach is a reduction of 7 hours per week. As you are aware, the Hermosa Beach Branch Library is now open 5 days a week over 35 hours. The proposal would reduce the operating hours to 4 days a week over 28 hours.

The Board of Supervisors will consider the various budget proposals submitted by the County Librarian as well as other departments and it would be a good idea to express the City Council's opinion on the proposal so it can be considered.

As a side note, the property taxes paid to the Library System by Hermosa Beach property owners will total over \$550,000 during the next fiscal year. The actual operating cost in fiscal year 2001-02 for the Hermosa Beach Branch was \$542,172. The property taxes received from Hermosa Beach and the cost of service at 35 hours a week is very close.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Burrell
City Manager