



## ISLA VISTA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

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April 6, 2020

Mayor Perotte and City Councilmembers,

I write to you today on behalf of the Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) Board of Directors regarding item B.6, “Results of Harwood Community Survey and Consideration of Possible Library Service Enhancements in the Goleta Library Service Area.”

The IVCSD Board of Directors would like to voice our continual support for libraries as essential and important services for our community. When it comes to libraries, Isla Vista has been historically underserved. Despite being larger than many small cities in our County, we have never had a branch library. The County of Santa Barbara contributes \$204,945 in per-capita funding from Isla Vista for library services in the unincorporated areas. The distance between Isla Vista and the Goleta Valley Library, as well as the unique demographics and needs of our residents have led many to desire more localized library services. To this end, the State of California, at the request of Asm. Monique Limón, authorized \$200,000 in one-time funding “to support the development of a satellite library in Isla Vista.”

In June of 2019 the IVCSD Board of Directors participated in a Harwood conversation with Goleta Valley Library staff, where the Board identified the following priorities:

1. Access to literacy and reading programming for youth and families
2. Services for college-aged students, such as common books, textbooks, and course reader reserves, as well as dedicated study space

Additionally, the Board agreed that there was a need for services to be provided within Isla Vista limits in order to foster higher levels of service utilization.

The Isla Vista Community Services District wishes to be a strong partner to the Library by offering space for a Reading Room and special programming at the IV Community Room and newly opened IV Community Center. Our Board requests that your Council revisit Option 3: Isla Vista Reading Room as a model with immense potential. We believe that having a consistent physical library presence will best ensure that library services are accessible to all residents. An

Isla Vista Reading Room would allow us to leverage our resources through a partnership between the IVCSD and the City of Goleta for little or no-cost facilities rental.

Under this option, certain types of on-site programming at our schools and community centers could still be planned, with the goal of building a strong relationship with attendees that draws more Reading Room users in. While we acknowledge that an Isla Vista Reading Room would not be a full-service branch library, we believe that it is a model that is scalable should the community desire and usage dictate the need for augmented services and resources. We propose providing our staff's support for community outreach in order to promote high service utilization.

We thank Goleta Library staff for their creativity in crafting Option 4, which includes a number of innovative ideas, such as little libraries, book drop of locations, and electronic pop-up libraries. It is our preference that these ideas be implemented in a hybrid with Option 3, in order to promote accessibility.

When the Isla Vista community wrote special legislation to create the Isla Vista Community Services District between 2014 and 2015, the power to "improve, maintain, and operate community facilities, including, but not limited to, community centers, libraries, theaters..." was specifically included in recognition of the importance of public spaces to our community. With that in mind, our Board desires to craft an effective partnership with the Goleta Valley Library System, and hopes to provide physical space in our facilities and staff support for community outreach and marketing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Spencer Brandt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Spencer" and last name "Brandt" clearly distinguishable.

Spencer Brandt

President of the Board, Isla Vista Community Services District

**From:** [Jonathan Abboud](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Group](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for April 7th Agenda Item - B.6 20-124  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 07, 2020 6:05:55 PM

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Hello,

Please read into the record the following comment:

Dear Mayor Perotte, and members of the City Council

Thank you for hearing us today and considering an item on your agenda to improve library services in Isla Vista.

My name is Jonathan Abboud, I serve as the General Manager of the Isla Vista Community Services District, I have been involved in these efforts since they began in 2018. Our board has been strongly engaged and interested in making sure Isla Vista receives a fair share of library services that are attuned to Isla Vista's unique demographics, especially since library services are a power afforded to our district under our legislative charter.

I would like to extend an offer of partnership and support to city management and Goleta Valley Library staff in crafting and executing the services to be delivered in Isla Vista. With the limited funding that is available, it is of the highest importance that it is spent efficiently and wisely. The IVCSD has been proficient at delivering services to our community's unique needs in a manner that is iterative and improves upon successful efforts. I believe we can be a strong partner to the city and the library in reducing/stretching costs for the provision of library services, the experimentation of options, and in the outreach to ensure widespread community awareness.

I look forward to what our partnership can bring.

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**Jonathan A. Abboud**  
General Manager  
*Isla Vista Community Services District*

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Master of Technology Management  
*University of California Santa Barbara*  
Cell: (310) 734-9791

**From:** [Jay Freeman \(saurik\)](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Group](#)  
**Subject:** public comment for April 7th 2020 item B.6  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 07, 2020 5:08:00 PM

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Please read into the record for item B.6 "Results of Harwood Community Survey and Consideration of Possible Library Service Enhancements in the Goleta Library Service Area".

Hello. My name is Jay Freeman. I am on the board of the Isla Vista Community Services District and the Goleta Valley Library Advisory Commission; this comment, however, is on my own behalf and is not being left in an official capacity. I wanted to clarify for the City Council that both my own interest in option 4 (Library Pop-Up Services), as well as my perception of the interest from other commissioners, was not to simply "execute it, as stated, in its entirety" (as the supplemental staff report seems to assume), but that it offered a framework for both cheap and immediate experimentation into service offerings. As an example, rather than immediately purchasing four vending machines, we could start with one and see if it works well and people like using it. I noted that the equipment for the van overlapped with the equipment for the bookmobile option, and another commissioner noted we didn't even have to buy the van: we could lease or even rent one temporarily. This allows us to see if the mobile library concept works for our community at all, at which point we might decide to buy the van, get a second van, or realize "we should have gone for the bookmobile" and switch to that strategy with minimal sunk costs. Of course, now waiting until after we (hopefully) get past the current global pandemic, I believe we can, and should, jump right in to some trial programming in Isla Vista, such as story time reading sessions at the IV Community Room. This would only cost staff time, and we can then get feedback on what we could do better from attendees (whether differences in programming, timing, or location). I personally believe that this strategy--which in the world of software we call "agile"--is a fundamentally better approach to decision making than the Harwood Conversation process had been (which feels more analogous to what we call "waterfall"), as it allows for feedback and rapid refinement on concrete ideas, which tends to generate much more honest and useful responses. Finally, I would note that I believe that this naturally combines aspects of option 3--Library Room, the option that the IVCSD is formally requesting be reconsidered as part of a hybrid approach)--as the library staff begins working with the IVCSD on usage of its space. Thank you for your time, and I am very happy I got to e-mail in this comment: I hope you continue this practice forever ;P.