



PAUL HAHN
Chief Administrative Officer

BUTTE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

**25 COUNTY CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 200
OROVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95965-3380
Telephone: (530) 538-7631 Fax: (530) 538-7120**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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January 12, 2015

Mr. Mark Orme
City Manager, City of Chico
PO Box 3420
Chico, CA 95928

Dear Mark,

As you are aware, the City of Chico and the County of Butte have had a partnership for many years in which the City of Chico has helped fund additional hours for the Chico branch of the Butte County Library. As a result of this ongoing partnership between the City and County (as well as the Chico Friends of the Library), the Chico Library has thrived and continues to be a place where Chico residents and their families can experience a first-class library and a safe place for their families to learn.

As we know, the City has experienced fiscal difficulties in recent years requiring the City to cut back on its funding contribution from approximately \$171,000 in the 2008-09 fiscal year to \$100,000 in the 2013-14 fiscal year. In each case after the City reduced its contribution, the County Board of Supervisors has either abated this reduction with General Fund dollars or added back hours to maintain pre-recession service levels. In addition, just this year, the County has increased funding for the Chico Library allowing the Library to be open on Sundays for the first time in many years. For the current fiscal year, the County anticipates spending over \$3 million operating libraries for Butte County residents, of which over \$2.7 million are General Fund dollars. The operation of the Chico library makes up the majority of the anticipated expenditures.

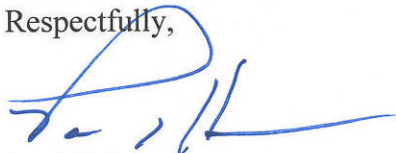
For the 2014-15 fiscal year, the City continued to experience fiscal distress and the City's contribution was further reduced to \$75,000. This time, experiencing our own fiscal issues, as well as attempting to maintain equity with the other library branches, the Board chose not to backfill this reduction. Instead, the Board decided to keep the Library hours unchanged for the time being, recognizing that given the City could afford \$75,000 (or three quarters of the amount needed to maintain existing hours for a full year) that the County would maintain existing hours through March 31 of 2015, and continue to work with the City to determine whether the \$25,000 needed to fund the same hours for the fourth quarter of the fiscal year could be provided before that time.

Today, I write to you to request that the City reconsider funding the additional \$25,000 so that existing hours and operations at the Chico Library can continue. As the New Year begins, we have essentially three months to ensure additional funding or reductions in hours will have to occur (basically closing on Mondays and opening two hours later Tuesday through Thursday).

While the County recognizes that the City of Chico continues to experience fiscal and service challenges, this memo is intended to formally request that the City augment its contribution for fiscal year 2014-15 by \$25,000 to help keep the Chico Library open seven days a week at its existing hours and service levels. The County continues to value the partnership we have with the City in regards to the Chico Library, and we hope that this partnership can continue and grow as we both recover from the recession that affected us all. In this last year, the Chico Library assisted over 31,000 citizens during these additional funded hours. I recognize fully the challenges the City is facing, as the County faces its own challenges, but hope that we can work together to ensure this vital and popular service can continue without service cutbacks.

Again, I want to thank the City for our valuable partnership and offer that our Library Director Melanie Lightbody and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with either yourself and staff or the City Council at your convenience.

Respectfully,



Paul Hahn,
Chief Administrative Officer
County of Butte

cc. Board of Supervisors
Louis Jarvis, Management Analyst, Sr.
Melanie Lightbody, Library Director