



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: October 15, 2010
TO: All Library Department Employees
FROM: Deborah Barrow, Library Director
SUBJECT: Proposed Budget Cuts for Fiscal Year 2012 and Community Meetings

Dear Library Staff:

In a recent email I informed you that the City is developing proposals to bridge a \$72 million shortfall in FY12. To assist with this effort, the Library has been asked to cut roughly 24% -- a total of \$5.1 million dollars -- from our budget. The proposal at this time includes:

- a) Permanent closure of two library facilities.
- b) Rolling brownouts of remaining libraries. Branches will be paired together and closed on alternate days.
- c) Additional cuts to a wide range of resources and services, including children's books and online databases.
- d) Eliminate more than 80 full-time employee positions.

I recognize this budget situation is cause for tremendous concern, especially given all the cuts our department has endured these past few years. We have seen the city's annual public library hours drop from a total of 76,076 in FY '07 to 66,144 in FY '11 to potentially 43,056 under the proposed rolling-brownout plan.

Last year alone we had to cut over \$100,000 in online access to databases and materials. We will have less funds to purchase best sellers, children's books, DVDs, downloadable books, films and other materials to support library user's information needs each time the materials budget is cut. We will have fewer children's programs and other programs, as well as very limited access for community members to library meeting rooms as hours and staffing decrease.

Please remember that this is the current *proposal* from the Library for the required budget cuts for FY12. Other departments are being asked to make major cuts as well, including substantial amounts from the Police and the Fire departments, as well as Parks and Recreation.

A final determination on the FY12 budget will be based on the budget submitted for consideration by the Mayor, and approval by the City Council. It is anticipated that the Mayor's proposed budget will be issued by April 15, 2011 followed by a series of public meetings and final action by the City Council. Any budget reductions proposed in the final FY12 budget will require the Department to meet and confer, as required by law, with the impacted labor organization prior to implementation.

Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Reduction Scenarios

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Due to the severity of the cuts that are proposed, City Administration has established a series of Town Hall meetings to inform the community of the drastic cuts that will be needed to balance the budget in FY12. Attached is the list of meetings for your information and in case library users inquire.

Please share this information with others who may not have access to email.

With Sincerest Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deborah Barrow". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Deborah Barrow
Library Director