



# Mayor Dick Murphy NEWS FOR RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CITY'S APPEALS FOR LIBRARY FUNDING APPLICATIONS APPROVED BY STATE**

### *New Main Library and San Ysidro Branch Projects Will be Evaluated for Funding*

**San Diego** - Mayor Dick Murphy today announced that the California Library Board has reinstated two applications for funding a new main library and a branch library in San Ysidro. The decision came after the City of San Diego appealed an earlier determination that the applications were ineligible. Both applications will now be evaluated for state funding and final decisions are anticipated later this year.

"The City of San Diego has maintained that the applications for library funding were in order and we are very pleased that the state agrees," said Mayor Dick Murphy. "We are optimistic that the state will approve the funding, which will assist us in completing one of my top 10 goals - building a library system for the 21st century."

In August, the California Library Board deemed that the City's application for \$20 million in funding for the main library was denied because the City did not meet all requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act. A \$9.5 million application for the San Ysidro branch was denied because environmental documents were outdated, according to the board.

In its appeals to both decisions, the City contended that all environmental documents were in order.

In letters to Mayor Dick Murphy dated Sept. 6, State Librarian of California Kevin Starr wrote, "Based on further review, the ineligibility determination is withdrawn, and your application has been reinstated for evaluation for the first funding cycle."

A total of \$350 million will be distributed by the state through 2004 under Proposition 14, approved by voters in March 2000. The applications for funding for the main library and San Ysidro branch will join an application already accepted for review by the state for \$5.2 million for a new Logan Heights branch. A final decision on which library projects in the state will receive Proposition 14 funding in the first round will be announced in later this year. There are two additional future rounds of Proposition 14 funding for which the City can apply.

On July 30, the Mayor and City Council approved an ambitious, \$303 million program to build or improve 24 libraries system wide. City staff is currently working on a financing plan for the entire program that will be presented to the City Council this fall.

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