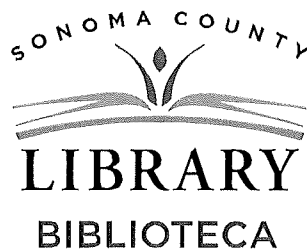


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April 25, 2025

A timely investment in library access in Roseland, Bellevue and Moorland

Dear Chair Hopkins, Sonoma County Supervisors and Executive Staff:

We write today with an update on the Roseland Regional Library project and a funding request. With the support of government, library, foundation, and private grants, we are close to a fully funded project!

Funding is still needed. We respectfully request that the County of Sonoma consider a modest allocation of \$300,000 in fiscal year 2025-2026 that will make a significant impact on increasing access at our new library.

The new Roseland Regional Library will be a model for a flexible, resilient and modern library that will serve Sonoma County for generations. Under the umbrella of **Creating Opportunities**, the library will focus on six key areas:

- Welcoming Places for Children and Families
- Collections that Honor Our Diverse Cultures
- Technology that Bridges the Digital Divide
- Partnerships that Open Doors
- Growing Sustainability
- Gathering Places that Bring Us Together

Every investment in Roseland is an investment in the future. A permanent library will be another example of the county's long-term commitment to upstream investments and will be an important step toward providing equity and parity in these vital, growing neighborhoods. Whether we are offering economic development support to businesses, supporting early literacy programs, or opening our doors as cooling centers, the new library will be a hub for community outreach.

The library will include indoor/outdoor learning and gathering places, dedicated spaces for children, teens, and adults, and plenty of free technology and meeting spaces, which Roseland, Bellevue and Moorland residents tell us they desperately want and need.

A \$300,000 allocation will help us increase library access for county residents.

The specifics of the request are:

Laptop lending kiosk with 12 laptops: \$60,000

An innovation in library technology, these kiosks allow patrons to borrow a laptop for use anywhere in the library. This promotes privacy and convenience and reduces the need for stationary computers. More patrons can access technology, more often and with more flexibility.

24/7 automated smart locker (BiblioBox): \$50,000

Pioneered by digital titans like Amazon, these smart lockers have been successfully deployed at most Sonoma County Library locations. Commuters and others with flexible schedules can place holds for books and other materials and pick them up 24 hours a day with their library card, whether the library is open or not.

Sound studio: \$40,000

As technology becomes more fluid and more available, library patrons are using these studios elsewhere in our system to create podcasts, record original music and learn valuable job skills.

Automated materials handling equipment: \$150,000

These book and media sorting devices speed up the time it takes to process returns and get books back on the shelves and available for lending, a key strategy for a complex and diverse collection which we will make available in the new library. An added bonus is that the equipment reduces repetitive motion injuries for library staff.

Each of these items will increase access to the library, its materials and its technology. We urge you to look into the diverse sources of revenue and funds available to you that can support this access, and join the City of Santa Rosa, the State of California, the Sonoma County Library, the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, the Sonoma County Library Foundation, Community Foundation Sonoma County, Friends of the Santa Rosa Libraries, and many other families and donors that are supporting this generational opportunity to build a 21st Century library and help us promote greater equity and opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration! We look forward to discussing this opportunity.

Erika Thibault, Sonoma County Library Director

Deborah Doyle, Sonoma County Library Commission Chair

David Cahill, Santa Rosa Library Commissioner

Eve Goldberg, County of Sonoma Library Commissioner

Sarah Laggos, Santa Rosa/County of Sonoma Library Commissioner

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