

RFP Questions & Answers

Q: The RFP doesn't specify stakeholder or public engagement. It does ask the consultant to collect data regarding community needs. Given the many entities involved in delivering library services to Santa Barbara County, it would appear helpful to meet with key stakeholders. Would the County expect the consultant to also engage the public in identifying community needs or exploring how best to deliver and fund library services?

A: It would be helpful to meet with key stakeholders. I would expect meetings with each of the 5 supervisors, meetings with the Library Advisory Committee as a whole several times, some of the cities/city managers, the library directors, etc. I don't believe the consultant would need to engage the public at large. However, if you feel that there is a crucial step in this process and there is a need for some sort of public outreach/input/feedback, then by all means propose that in your proposal (maybe as an alternative option with its separate additional cost with your recommendation that we engage in this process).

Q: Although we have searched the Library Advisory Committee site and find much information there, we cannot locate the exact current funding formula. I note that the county funds are allocated at a rate of \$7.80 per capita but cannot determine how the population numbers are assigned. For instance, Goleta has a population of around 30,000 but is credited for formula funding purposes with over 90,000. Can you provide a link or spreadsheet that would help explain the funding formula? We note that the county tax amount is about \$3.4 million of the total operating expenditures by libraries in the county of \$12.7 million. Is the \$3.4 million a county tax on all jurisdictions in the county or just those jurisdictions that do not tax themselves locally for library service? Can we get a reference to the levy rate and/or some other explanation of the library taxes in the county?

A: The ongoing base per capita is \$7.80. The past two years the Board of Supervisors provided additional one time money for libraries that bumped up the per capita but you should really use the \$7.80 as the base.

The libraries in SB are divided into three geographic zones and are funded based on the population in each respective zone. The population comes from the State library site and State department of Finance.

The allocation of the funds to each respective library is a decision of each zone director, factoring in the population of the city and the sphere of influence. We researched and there is no scientific basis on how the dollars are allocated to each library. The closest formula seems to be a sphere of influence. In Goleta's case, there is an additional layer in that the voters' years back voted for a special tax just for libraries. This area is known as Community Services Area 3 (CSA3). Each property is assessed for library services and the measure calls for the money to go to the Goleta library. So, between the city population and the unincorporated CSA3 (the city of Goleta is within the CSA3 boundaries), the city serves approximately 68,000 people. The SB zone administrator back in the day assigned a sphere of influence of approximately 90,000 residents to Goleta. This is becoming a point of contention with Goleta wanting to administer their own library.

The \$3.4 million is not a special tax. The County contribution comes from the County's general fund.

Q: Are there any page or word count limitations for proposal submissions? Any formatting requirements not noted in the RFP?

A: There are no page restrictions nor formatting requirements for the RFP. Please use as many pages as you need to convey the information.