



City of Sunnyvale

Agenda Item

14-0738

Agenda Date: 1/30/2015

2015 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

LCS 15-01

TITLE Establishing a Library Impact Fee

BACKGROUND

Lead Department: Library & Community Services
Support Department(s): N/A

Sponsor(s):

Board/Commission: Board of Library Trustees

History:

1 year ago: N/A

2 years ago: N/A

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

What are the key elements of the study?

This study would analyze the requirements to initiate library impact fees for the City of Sunnyvale. Staff would survey cities in California and elsewhere to see if there are similar fees placed on new development dedicated for library facility construction and improvements and provide a summary of such fees as well as the impact such fees have had on library capital projects and services.

What precipitated this study?

The Board of Library Trustees has become increasingly frustrated by the lack of funds to build a new library or to significantly increase library services since the library is solely dependent upon general funds. They are concerned that Sunnyvale offers the lowest library space per capita of any city in Santa Clara County and is the last city in Santa Clara County to have rebuilt or constructed a main library. They observed the model of park funding in the City (the Quimby Act) which authorizes local agencies to establish an ordinance requiring new development to pay a fee or dedicate land for park and recreation facilities. They have also observed development fees being assessed for other city services. Since increased development impacts usage of library services and buildings they would like a similar funding model to be considered by the city.

Planned Completion Year: 2015

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost to Conduct Study

Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost): Moderate

Amount of funding above current budget required: \$0

Funding Source: N/A

Cost to Implement Study Results

Unknown. Study would include assessment of potential costs.

EXPECTED PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS

Council-approved work plan: No

Council Study Session: No

Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: Board of Library Trustees

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Position: None

Explanation: While the idea is innovative, it is unclear if this impact fee would be sufficient in the short term to fund large capital improvements without the need to still seek other funding sources. Staff also notes that there already exists a Council-approved study regarding the renovation or replacement of all Civic Center buildings, including the City's main library. If this study issue is conducted then staff recommends it be considered along with other funding opportunities being explored in the context of the civic center project (e.g., bond financing, or a public/private development partnership).

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