

## REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

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**DATE:** January 16, 2018

**TITLE:** New Library Facility

**Prepared by:** Luke Rainey, Deputy City Manager

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

**Approve continued exploration with the Riverside County EDA for a replacement library facility on a County owned parcel located at Park Lane and Palm Drive.**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Riverside County Library System (RCLS) has requested the County's Economic Development Agency (EDA) pursue a Request for Proposals (RFP) process, to consider and potentially deliver three new libraries on County owned land. The RFP is one of the initial steps of their Public Private Partnership approach for this project (Exhibit 1). One of the three properties is located on a County owned parcel within the City at the intersection of Park Lane and Palm Drive (Exhibit 2).

The proposed facility would enhance and improve library services for local residents. A new facility will allow RCLS to deploy a modern library experience, with an emphasis on comfort and technology. Design specifications will include a computer lab for research and training purposes, plug-in technology areas for mobile devices, self-checkout stations, electronic bulletin boards, and improved wireless capabilities. The proposed facility would serve as a replacement branch to the City's current building and location. On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Board of Supervisors approved the RFP request, which described the proposed Desert Hot Springs facility and current usage, as follows:

Desert Hot Springs: Library facility will be proposed as approximately 15,000 square feet, the facility will be constructed on a portion of Assessor's Parcel Number 656-040-060. The current population in Desert Hot Springs is approximately 28,989, and the existing Desert Hot Springs library 2016-2017 visits were 72,263. The visitors utilize library services for research, education, entertainment, and career enhancement. The current existing library is 3,527 square feet. This is a replacement branch.

### **DISCUSSION**

The current Desert Hot Springs Library branch is located at 11691 West Drive. The 3,527 square foot space was built in 1973 and is currently owned by the County of Riverside. With over 70,000 visits logged in a twelve-month period, the small branch is in need of additional space and modern amenities. The facility possesses a variety of challenges in providing services to the residents of Desert Hot Springs and surrounding areas. The Advocates of the Desert Hot Springs Library created a report in 2016 providing a history and outlining the high demands on the library, now utilized by a City population nine times larger than it was when the facility was built (Exhibit 3). Over the past few years, discussions have taken place regarding expansion and upgrades to the current location.

Taking into account the current RCLS and EDA efforts, Staff is asking the City Council to consider whether or not there is interest in pursuing this option for a new library facility. Should the City Council decide to support further exploration, Staff will work directly with the County's EDA department and bring forth future agenda items providing details on specifications, ownership options, and associated costs.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact for continuing exploration with the County EDA.

**EXHIBIT(S)**

- 1) Public Private Partnership - EDA Fundamental Steps
- 2) Proposed Location Site Map
- 3) Advocates of the Desert Hot Springs Library Report (2016)