

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the Torrance City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Community Services- Expansion of the North Torrance Branch Library.
Expenditure: \$285,000.**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Community Services and General Services Directors that the City Council provide conceptual approval for expanding the North Torrance Branch Library at a cost of \$285,000.

FUNDING

Funding is available from the North Torrance Library and McMaster Park Redevelopment Project FEAP337

BACKGROUND

The North Torrance Branch Library was constructed in 1964 and is now under renovation for new stacks, carpeting, electrical, lighting and paint. Future work is also scheduled which will include restroom and exterior building access upgrades for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. Design of the restroom and ADA upgrades is expected to be completed for plan check within 30 days.

ANALYSIS

In 2005, staff applied for grant funding to build a new library on McMaster Park. This funding never materialized and no alternative funding sources have been identified. Without funding for a new library, staff turned their attention to possible renovation of the North Torrance Branch Library. After a recent job walk, General Services staff proposed the enclosure of the outdoor patio area. Library staff evaluated the idea and found that this concept would be extremely beneficial to the library. The rationale behind this concept is that the outdoor patio is currently unusable due to the noise and exhaust from Artesia Blvd. The Library is in critical need of extra space, as it is one of the busiest branches of Torrance Public Library. This facility services more students than any other branch in the City. The proposed enclosure of the patio is ideal for facilitating these needs.

Adding approximately 400 square feet as a reading room would provide expanded seating and collection space for the library. This would serve as a quiet area for adults adjacent to but separate from the larger public room that is crowded with students during after school hours.

Replacing the existing windows with double paned glass would significantly dampen sound from outside the building and would be more energy efficient. Furthermore, the area would be stocked with comfortable and aesthetically pleasing furnishings.

It is expected that the expansion of the branch will occur concurrently with restroom and ADA access upgrades. Work will not impact the current shelving plans; however, it is expected the ADA modifications and expansion of the facility would require closure of the building for a period of approximately one week.

Respectfully submitted,



John Jones
Community Services Director



Sheryl Ballew
General Services Director

CONCUR:



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

JJ:JM:JL:epv\city council\city council item\2010\Expansion of North Torrance Branch Library\04-06-10

CM NOTE:

City Council appropriated \$3.1 million to be used as a part of what would have been the City's required matching funds if it had been successful in the 2005 grant application. As part of the upcoming budget, this capital project appropriation as well as other General Fund capital project balances will be reviewed and weighed against current capital needs.