Council Meeting of
June 27, 2006

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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Purchase of Three Electronic Databases

Expenditure: $30,925

RECOMMENDATION

A recommendation of the Community Services Director that the City Council approve the sole source purchase of three electronic databases from EBSCO, Inc., for $30,925 for use by library patrons.

Funding

Funding is available in the Library Division operating budget for fiscal year 2006-2007.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Library Division has carefully selected a number of commercial databases for use by its patrons. Where at all possible, they have been licensed for use within the Library as well as from an individual's home and place of business.

The major full-text magazine index and fiction reader's advisory database have all been selected in the past from EBSCO, Inc. Their full-text magazine database contains over 1,000 magazines with a total of over 3,000 actual magazines indexed; the Auto Repair Reference Center with information from Chilton's from 1954 to the present; the NoveList database contains recommended reading suggestions for fiction. These databases contain the best combination of ease of use and critical content.

The Library wishes to use EBSCO as a sole source for its general and magazine electronic database as well as NoveList, the fiction database. As mentioned, EBSCO has many full-text titles that are not available in other electronic databases. The Library evaluated other companies' databases and found they provided less content and more difficult software interfaces for public use. In the most recent evaluation of pricing, EBSCO was also the least expensive for the amount of material provided. All EBSCO databases are available from within the Library as well as from home and work.

The Torrance Municipal Code, Section 22.3.17 **Exceptions; sole-source purchases**, states:

"(a) The provisions of this Article shall not apply to purchases of sole-source services or property, which purchases shall be made in accordance with such procedures and regulations as shall be established by the City Manager.

(b) For purposes of this Section, "sole-source purchases" shall mean those purchases where it would be undesirable or impossible for the City to advertise for bids for particular work or for patented items, or experimental or unique services or products, or where competitive purchases would be unavailable or would not prove advantageous for the City. No sole-source purchases shall be made where to do so would show favoritism, improvidence, extravagance, fraud or corruption, or result in the waste of public funds, but shall be used only to obtain the best economic result for the public."

Respectfully submitted,

GENE BARNETT
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

By _____
Norm Reeder
Library Services Manager

CONCUR:

_____
Gene Barnett
Community Services Director

_____
LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager