

\$260,000 Increase

Area Library Budget Proposal

A proposed budget of some \$1.54 million was presented Monday to the Santa Cruz county board of library trustees by head Librarian Charles Atkins.

Last year's budget was \$1.28 million.

The proposed increase would include addition of four full-time and one part-time position within the library system, as well as a sharp increase in book prices.

Atkins said that with the ex-

ception of Aptos and Branciforte branches of the library system, branches operate with only one staff person. That means that when that staff worker is on vacation or is sick, the branch must close.

To provide back-up help, the four full-time and one part-time additions are needed, he said.

Atkins said the other major increase in the proposed budget is a \$28,000 jump in the book budget. He said last year's figure of \$107,000 was not ade-

quate, partly because of the increase in book prices, and partly because of demands of increased circulation. Also, he said, the federal government kicked in with \$10,000 for books last year, funds which the library will not have this year.

He explained that included in the \$1.54 million budget request is an \$84,000 bond redemption arising from the construction of the main library. Also, the budget calls for an increase of \$12,000 for the reciprocal agreement the library has with

Watsonville's library. Formerly, he said, the Santa Cruz library paid \$42,000, but with the opening of the Watsonville library will be increased circulation there, Atkins said, resulting in more of a strain to make the Watsonville books available to Santa Cruz readers.

The budget was presented to trustee members at the monthly meeting of the board Monday. Trustees went over the budget with Atkins, but no action was taken, pending further study.

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