

A Big Boulder Creek Library Recommended

By **BILL NEUBAUER**
Sentinel Staff Writer

Boulder Creek's proposed new library would contain at least 4,600 square feet but could be even larger under a recommendation approved unanimously this morning by the city-county Library Board for forwarding to the Board of Supervisors and the Santa Cruz City Council.

The recommendation got almost immediate solid backing from Fifth District Supervisor Joe Cucchiara, who told the trustees and large turnout from the San Lorenzo Valley: "I will strongly support at least 4,600 square feet at the supervisors' level."

The Library Board action came on a motion by Trustee Jim Lee, a county representative. The motion was seconded immediately by Al Reetz, a city representative on the board. The action was so swift that people in the audience had no need to urge the trustees to opt for a bigger library than the 3,600 square-foot library suggested last month by Librarian Charles Atkins.

Ann Wise, a trustee of the San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District urged the Library Board to keep the original 4,600 square-footage originally proposed.

"Students need the availability of large

amounts of books and it is a long distance from Boulder Creek to Santa Cruz," Wise said. "Furthermore, the Boulder Creek area is growing, and I feel that taking 1,000 square feet away from the new library would be a little shortsighted."

Lee told his colleagues that a library with 4,000 square feet plus 600 square feet for a meeting room would simply be adequate, not excessive in Boulder Creek.

Cucchiara then said during discussion: "I feel it would be prudent under the current financial situation in the county and the state to make a good decision now regarding adequate size. It will be a long time before an addition could be made. The original 4,600 square feet proposed can be supported by the 1980 census data and by the regional service the library will give. This would be basically an adequate size, and any reduction in that size would be irresponsible, I feel."

After the decision was made, resident Charles Perkins said, "I am really excited about the possibility of a real library in Boulder Creek."

The proposed library is estimated to cost between \$300,000 to \$400,000. It would be built on a 1.3-acre site donated for the purpose on West Park Avenue.

Under the city-county library agreement, the county will pay two-thirds and the city one-third of the cost, with both governments required to approve the plans and funding and to authorize the construction.

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