

# Library Budget Up 9.9 Percent

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A \$1,299,132 operating budget for fiscal 1979-80 was proposed this morning for the city-county library system.

The new budget represents a 9.9 percent increase over the current operating budget, which is \$1,182,961. But Librarian Charles Atkins warned the Library Board that the money asked would only enable retention of present levels of service and that it would not provide for any cost-of-living salary increases.

An inflation rate of some 10 percent is a major concern in the Proposition 13 era that has wiped out much of the library system's revenue from property taxes, Atkins said.

Further, about \$41,000 of the \$117,232 budget increase proposed would go for additional salaries, some \$38,825 of the total to fund three new positions to restore service originally canceled in the wake of cutbacks necessitated by shrunken revenues.

After the library budget was slashed last June following passage of Proposition 13, the Library Board ordered four branches closed and the Bookmobile withdrawn from service. But special fundings granted by city and county

enabled all but one of the branches to be reopened and the Bookmobile returned to service — all with reduced hours. A Bookmobile librarian and a driver had to be hired, Atkins said, on a temporary basis. These will be needed permanently, as will a janitor who will also deliver books to all the city and county branches.

Atkins told the trustees he anticipates that the county will be required to pay about 68 percent of the operating budget under terms of its contract with the city, or some \$883,451 compared with about \$415,742 to be paid by the city. This cost split is proportionate to the circulation of books and other materials within the county and city's jurisdictions.

The county library fund will also be required to pay \$70,000 to the city of Watsonville library.

The Library Board will discuss the budget in detail between now and May. In addition, the trustees will ask the county to use federal revenue sharing funds to build now a new library branch in either Live Oak or Boulder Creek in conformance with a master plan for library development. Trustee Vernon Berlin got unanimous board approval to forward this request to county officials.