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County urged to accept free land

Librarian - 1910 - 1929

SANTA CRUZ — The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors was urged Tuesday to accept an offer of free land on which to build a branch library in Boulder Creek.

The request was carried to the board by Vernon Berlin, a member of the Santa Cruz City-County Library System's board of trustees, which Monday had voted to endorse accepting the gift.

Robert Kuerzel has offered to donate an acre he owns at Highway 9 and West Park Avenue in Boulder Creek for a li-

brary site, provided a library is built on the land in a "reasonable amount of time" — which evidently means in no more than five years.

Supervisors agreed to have the county staff study the gift at the same time it is studying purchase of a site for a new Live Oak library. The staff also is looking into solutions to the library system's difficult financial problems.

A report to the board on all these questions is expected next month.

During the library discus-

sion, Supervisors' Chairman Marilyn Liddicoat asked librarian Charles Atkins about the possibility of using volunteer workers in the libraries to save money. The city-county library system will be more than \$100,000 short of funds this year unless it receives a special transfusion.

Atkins said volunteers could replace only staff librarians in the smallest branches.

"If you use only volunteers," he said, "it results in a lessening of the level of service and is a step downwards in the running of the libraries."