

Freedom Library Funding In Air

Libraries - 1980-1989

County supervisors held off funding of the Freedom branch library for one week Tuesday after the Friends of the Library informed the board that they are working out a program with the Pajaro Valley Unified School District to use the Freedom Elementary School library room for a general library.

The county has been asked to provide \$5,900 to make it possible for the Freedom branch library to make it through this fiscal year.

On a 3-2 vote last week, the board approved the concept of more funding, but lacked the four-fifths vote necessary to transfer funds.

Friends of the Freedom Library has also asked the board to consider allowing it to use the expected additional \$10,000 that will go to the Watsonville library system to compensate that library system for expected increased in circulation in the coming fiscal year.

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Vote Coming On Fee For Libraries?

"If it is feasible," County Supervisor Dan Forbus said he will propose that residents of the city-county library system vote to decide if they are willing to charge themselves a fee to pay for two new library buildings.

The library facilities would be built in the Boulder Creek and Live Oak areas and costs are estimated in the \$1 million to \$1.5 million range.

According to the county auditor, Forbus's ballot measure to raise funds would have to be based on a fee concept, rather than tax because of the restrictions of Proposition 13 that mandates property taxes can be no greater than 1 percent of the value of the property.

Forbus said there are a number of questions left unanswered and that he has asked county attorneys to come up with answers for next week's meeting.

"If it is unfeasible, then I'll drop the idea," Forbus said today.