

and a similar amount from the county that she hasn't received much assistance

Mrs. Liddicoat added.

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# Library funds: Wait and see

*Library - Budget*  
By CAROLYN  
HEEBNER-SWIFT

Santa Cruz City-County Library Trustees learned Monday they face a wait of about six weeks before county supervisors will decide whether or not to make a \$133,750 cut in the county portion of the library budget.

City-County Librarian Charles Atkins said the problem facing the board is not unique to Santa Cruz County, and there appears to be little the supervisors can do about the situation. Legislation designed to assist special districts has not materialized.

"There was \$411,000 in bail-out funds provided for the operation of the library," Atkins said, "There has been \$133,750 deleted from the county library fund, and we still have this shortage at the present."

Supervisors have indicated they will look at the budget in early January, and the city-county librarian said he feels confident the libraries will be funded. But if the cut is made, it must come from the operational funds.

The cut would amount to some 36 percent, Atkins said, and even worse — it would happen in the last six-months of the year.

"It's obvious we will have to be careful how we spend," he added.

If the cuts are actually made, Atkins said, then it will be essential that board members appear before the supervisors to talk about the areas in which the cuts will be made, rather than repeat the difficulties after Proposition 13 was passed one and one-half years ago. The library board and administration was criticized for the decisions that closed the library branches and the Bookmobile."

"At that time, we felt there was no time to ask people where the cuts should be," he said, "This time, we can do so."

There was a debate among some library trustees about whether or not the library board should recommend possible cuts if the county cut is forthcoming.

Trustee Vernon Berlin said he wants the county to take responsibility for the hardships that may be produced within the library system.

"If the supervisors cut the budget, they should indicate where the cuts will be, and take the heat for it," he said.

Trustee Eleanor Engstrand took the view that library trustees have greater knowledge of the library system, and can make the best recommendations. She suggested the library board make suggestions to the supervisors and negotiate if there is disagreement.

Both Atkins and Berlin strongly recommended the board make no moves until a formal cut is made. Atkins said there has been no indication from the

supervisors that the deletion from the budget is forthcoming.

In other matters Monday, the library board:

—Recommended the county accept donation of a site for a new library in Boulder Creek. The property is on the northside of West Park Avenue, west of Highway 9, and is across from a previous site selected by the library board. Atkins also told trustees the city-county library has made an application for federal monies that may provide funding for construction. There is a better chance the grant will win approval, he added, if there is already a site for the proposed building.

—Learned the Santa Cruz Library's grant to the Santa Cruz City Arts Commission was denied. Atkins said the city gave the reason that it usually does not award grants to other city departments. However, there is a show set-up as usual this month in the library's gallery, and the librarian said he anticipates no great problem through the remainder of this year.

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