

**ALAMEDA COUNTY LIBRARY
2013/2014 Budget Presentation
Board of Supervisors – April 9, 2013**

Slide 1:

Good afternoon, and thank you for this time to share with you the ways in which your Library supports the vision of establishing Alameda County as one of the best counties in the United States in which to live, work and do business.

Slide 2:

Libraries are both destination and transportation – Your Alameda County Library provides places of learning and enjoyment, places of safety, places of freedom and equality, places of exploration and discovery.

Slide 3:

They also provide transportation: transportation to employment, to home or business ownership, to the ability to read, to citizenship - transportation from dreams to reality.

Slide 4:

The human impact of libraries in our community is real and demonstrable. National studies show for every \$1.00 invested in a public library there is a \$5.00 - \$7.00 return to the local community.

Slide 5:

We provide early and life-long literacy services that contribute to long-term educational and economic success and community safety.

Slide 6:

We support workforce development by providing access to technology, employment search and career skills training. As well as providing assistance and support for the creation and success of community owned businesses.

Slide 7:

All of our services and programs, from books and information in myriad forms and formats, from literacy and citizenship classes to Homework Centers and Summer Reading Programs – snakes and lizards and spiders to Personal Emergency Training by our own Alameda County Fire Department to the Burmese American Democratic Alliance, we turn revenue into profit – positively impacting the individuals and communities in Alameda County.

Slide 8:

Like the County itself, one of the Library's major challenges is maintaining democratic principles and practices in the midst of a country that is changing from a democratic society with a capitalist economy to a capitalist society that by definition supports increasing the societal, economic and information divide. What you get depends on what you can afford.

Public libraries across the country, rooted in democracy, continue to fight for equality, equity, equal access and equal opportunity – open and accessible to all.

Slide 9:

Our best work is not done in isolation. Effective and lasting change, as well as excellent and efficient placement and provision of services – not to mention the sheer joy of accomplishment – is a result of the synergy that comes from collaboration and partnership.

Slide 10:

We are 100 strong – and growing! These are just a few examples of the variety and depth of partners we work with to fulfill the mission of both the County and the Library.

Slide 11:

P.U.L.S.E.! Pop Up Library Services for Everyone! Knowing that libraries lie at the heart of our communities, we are looking past the challenges of lack of capital funding to establish pulse points - pop-ups – new variations of libraries that take the wealth and power of libraries out into our communities to places where people come together for a variety of reasons. Our goal is to reach everyone in Alameda County included those often isolated and not able to get to a traditional library.

Slide 12:

With the much appreciated leadership of Supervisor Chan we will have, in 2015, the Grand Opening for the new San Lorenzo Library. With the continued support of your Board and our communities, we will be expanding and strengthening to meet our vision of “Opening Infinite Possibilities for all to Connect, Share Succeed, Thrive!”

Slide 13:

Libraries change lives and make lives better – and, as Rachel Maddow, Castro Valley native says – “librarians are the super heroes of democracy” – but since this is a budget presentation – to be presented in technical terms – the most specifically, professionally, accurate thing I can say to you is that – Your Alameda County libraries are WOW! places on an incredible voyage and we invite you to join us.