

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION FOR PURCHASE OF LIBRARY FURNITURE

SOURCE: PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

COMMENT: In May 2010, City Council approved a capital project to renovate the second level of the library into a computer commons area and a literacy/learning center. In anticipation of this project over the last two years, staff has been in the process of relocating the Genealogy collection and other furnishings in the Local History Room area. The space was opened up when staff removed the large meeting room table and empty bookcases from the area.

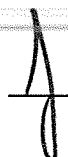
This open area of the Library has been continuously utilized by the public for quiet study, tutoring sessions, legal research, and the California Virtual Academies representative to meet with parents and students. College students often collaborate on assignments in this space on Saturdays and Sundays and with the addition of Wi-Fi to our facility our patrons are connecting to additional resources for their educational needs. Library programs that take place within this area are the Read to Succeed ESL program to conduct their group learning instruction and the Graphic Novel club for teens. Furthermore, plans for Parenting Leadership Classes and other potential new programs would be possible due to the flexibility of space.

The current Library layout does not offer adequate space to accommodate such needs for achieving literacy and educational objectives. The furnishings in the Local History Room are currently not conducive to an environment for collaborative work and/or independent study. Staff has allocated in the FY 2013-14 Measure H budget \$25,000 for the purchase of furniture for this space. Staff has obtained quotes from the two vendors who offer government contract pricing and that the City frequently purchases office furniture from: Office Depot and CalBennetts. The low quote from CalBennetts was \$23,370.22; Office Depot was \$24,512.10. Quotes include sales tax and installation.

The design that has been developed by the vendors places work/study tables, task chairs, and cozy seating for comfortable gathering. However, all design elements are meant to empower our patrons to configure the furnishings for their collaborative and/or independent study or meeting needs with ease. The Library will continue to provide program access for people with disabilities to the whole range of services and programs.

 Director

 Appropriated/Funded

 City Manager **ITEM NO.:** 2

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council authorize staff to move forward with negotiations for acquisition and installation of materials with CalBennetts for the Local History Room area.