



Fresno County Public Library

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 1, 2004

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STATE APPROVES FUNDING FOR NEW ORANGE COVE, TRANQUILLITY LIBRARIES

The Fresno County Public Library today announced approval of funding through the State Library Bond Act of 2000 to build new libraries in Orange Cove and Tranquillity. The funding distinguishes Fresno County as the only library system in California to receive approval for three projects, and the only Central San Joaquin Valley library system to receive awards in the third and final cycle of Bond Act funding.

Funding for a new Mendota Library was approved last fall by the Bond Act Board.

The Bond Act grant awards are \$2,807,698 for Orange Cove and \$1,220,172 for Tranquillity. The Fresno County projects were among 72 applications considered for the final cycle of State matching grants and among only 12 applications funded in the final round. The State will provide two-thirds of the needed funding, and the remaining one-third will be locally funded through revenue from the Measure B library sales tax.

Funded projects were announced November 29 at the California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board Meeting in Sacramento following a full day of public comments and Board deliberations. Community members from Orange Cove, Tranquillity and Fowler joined Fresno County Library officials in Sacramento to express support for new libraries in their communities.

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Library officials have been working with community partners for some time to acquire properties for the proposed new libraries. City officials in Orange Cove have made a partial property donation, and the Tranquillity Irrigation District is finalizing details for a full property donation.

The new libraries will address significant community growth and the needs of rural communities, and will focus on strong joint ventures with school districts. In addition to collections, services to families and children will be expanded. Job and career services, Spanish language resources and literacy services will be priorities as well.

A grant application for a new library in Fowler was also submitted for consideration and received a ranking of "very good," but Fowler was not funded. In the third and final round of Bond Act funding, there was more than \$586.6-million in requests and only \$80-million to be distributed. Library officials will continue to work with the community to explore funding options for a new Fowler Library.

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