

# Measure F and the Alameda County Library

## Utility Users Tax **FACT SHEET**

Alameda County Library  
May 2, 2008

**What is Measure F?** Measure F will be on the June 3, 2008 ballot for a vote of the people of Alameda County. The Measure is to approve and continue until June 30, 2021 the existing Utility Users Tax collected in the unincorporated areas of the County.

**What is the Utility Users Tax?** The tax began in 1993 and has been periodically renewed since then. This is a 6.5% tax for gas, electric, telephone and cable television service in the unincorporated areas of Alameda County to increase general County funds. General County funds pay for County services to the unincorporated areas, **including County Library Services, Sheriff's Department Services and Community Development Agency services.**

**Who pays the Utility Users Tax?** Those using natural gas, electric, telephone and cable television services in the unincorporated areas of the County pay this tax. This includes Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, Fairview, San Lorenzo and Sunol. There is an exemption for low income residents. **This tax is not paid by those living in the cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Newark, Oakland, Piedmont, Pleasanton, San Leandro or Union City.**

**Who will vote on Measure F, and why?** County Counsel and Legislative Counsel state that State law requires the vote to be Countywide although only those in the unincorporated areas using those services will pay the tax.

**What percentage vote is required for approval of Measure F?**

A majority vote in favor of Measure F is required for approval.

What services does the Utility Users Tax provide? Per the County's proposed budget, the following County departments would be allocated Utility Users Tax revenues in 2008/2009.

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- \$2.2 Million - County Library**
- \$1.3 Million - Community Development Agency**
- \$5.6 Million - County Sheriff's Department**
- \$9.1 Million - Total**

**How does the County Library use the Utility Users Tax**

**fundings?** The County Library uses Utility Users Tax revenues to extend weekly hours of service by approximately 50%; to provide bookmobile services and services to childcare centers in the unincorporated areas; to purchase new books, magazines, DVD's and other library materials and to provide County Library system support. How will the Library be affected if the Utility Users Tax is approved? All County Library services provided by the Utility Users Tax will be continued at current levels.

**How will the Library be affected if the Utility Users Tax is not approved?**

If the tax is discontinued and the Board of Supervisors does not fund Library services from other funding sources, the library will lose millions in revenue. This could result in the reduction of weekly hours of service at Castro Valley and San Lorenzo libraries, including Sunday hours; reduction of Bookmobile service; reduction in the purchase of library materials. The reduction in Bookmobile services and purchase of library materials could affect the entire Library system.

# ALAMEDA COUNTY LIBRARY

## POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF LOSS OF UTILITY USERS TAX MEASURE F

- Reduction of weekly hours of service at the Castro Valley and San Lorenzo libraries by approximately 50%
- Reduction of bookmobile stops in the unincorporated areas and at childcare centers in the unincorporated areas
- Reduction in purchases of new books, magazines, DVD's and other library materials
- Reduction in County Library system support to all branches
- Elimination of plans for "pocket libraries" in Ashland and Cherryland areas

*This information was compiled and is distributed by the Alameda County Library. In the opinion of the agency, based upon advice of counsel, it represents full and objective information.*