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March 20, 2023

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: City of Goleta - Goleta Valley Library Funding

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce, representing businesses across Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Carpinteria, would like to express our support for the City of Goleta - Goleta Valley Library funding request for necessary infrastructure and accessibility upgrades to the Goleta Valley Library building and property.

The Goleta Valley Library (Library) provides critical services and resources to the City of Goleta and surrounding areas of the County of Santa Barbara. In addition to the typical resources that a regional main library provides, such as access to a large repository of physical and digital content, the Library serves as a place of learning, community building, and respite for many of the region's underserved populations. The Library serves as a children's center, a warming/cooling and emergency center during inclement weather and emergencies, an adult learning center, and a welcoming place for homeless people and other disadvantaged groups who rely on the Library's computer resources. The Library develops and provides significant educational programming for patrons and circulates over 660,000 adult, teen, and children's materials annually. Considering that the average annual number of visits to the library is 260,000, and the library's recent experience as a vital community resource during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is clear that funding to improve this valuable public asset would greatly benefit the greater Goleta Valley community. Since its opening, the 50-year-old-building has not undergone any significant renovations and it needs numerous accessibility (ADA) upgrades and building system (electrical, plumbing, mechanical) improvements. Finally, funding for this project would also be used to install solar arrays on the property, helping to achieve State, County and City sustainable energy goals.

The City's funding request will allow the City to address the needed ADA accessibility improvements and general property and building infrastructure upgrades. These improvements will allow this valuable resource to continue to safely provide critical services to the many patrons who visit the library, including many of the community's underserved populations, and will allow the Library to continue to meet the needs of local residents for the next 50 years.

Sincerely,

Kristen Miller
President & CEO
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce