

SOLANO COUNTY LIBRARY

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SOLANO COUNTY COURTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

TO: Judge Scott Kays, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, Solano
County

FROM: ^{ac} Ann Cousineau, Director of Library Services

SUBJECT: Grand Jury Response

DATE: September 3, 2003

Enclosed is the Library's response to the annual Grand Jury's Report regarding their findings and recommendations about the John F. Kennedy library in Vallejo.

cc: Kathy Gibson, County Administrator's Office

SOLANO COUNTY LIBRARY

Response to Grand Jury Report September 2003

John F. Kennedy Library

Finding #1: The building is run down and old. The original carpet, which is 33 years old, is worn, torn and creates a safety hazard.

Recommendation #1: The City of Vallejo allocate funds to upgrade the building, including replacing the carpet.

Response: The City has allocated \$95,000 to replace the carpeting on the second floor. The children's room on the first floor was re-carpeted approximately 10 years ago. County staff are working in conjunction with City staff to develop specifications for the purchase and installation of the carpet.

Finding #2: Space allocated for library services is inadequate.

Recommendation #2: The City of Vallejo should make more space available for library use.

Response: Staff are unclear why this recommendation was made regarding the Kennedy library, which has more than adequate space for library services and programs. There is a separate children's room on the first floor with its own enclosed area for programs. The Joseph Room on the second floor is used for larger programs and hosts the popular Sunday afternoon concert series. There are 250 seats in the library proper for casual reading as well as study and research, including the first floor children's room and the second floor library area. The collection has ample space.

Kennedy is the only library with a separate computer room with 20 computers that can be used for training or for general computer use by the public. To date, this library is the only County Library branch that offers this service. Finally, the Library's Literacy program, which is headquartered at the Kennedy facility will be moving to Fairfield in October, which will make space available for one or two group study rooms. All these services reflect what the community said they wanted during public input sessions that helped shape the Library's 20-year Facilities Master Plan.