



**CITY OF SALINAS
LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

DATE: APRIL 10, 2024
FROM: FRANCIS HEBERT, INTERIM DEPUTY LIBRARIAN
TITLE: LIBRARY PUBLIC COMPUTER UPGRADES

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive report and provide feedback.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Salinas Public Library (SPL) was able to improve digital access for the community by providing new desktop computers at Cesar Chavez and John Steinbeck Libraries. This allows SPL to create computer use areas for adults, young adults, and children matching our community's needs and expectations. This was required considering the age and lack of performance shown by the current equipment available to the public.

BACKGROUND:

The aging public access computers at Cesar Chavez and John Steinbeck were inadequate to meet the technological needs of the Salinas community. Library visitors and members of the public provided ample feedback to staff and made numerous requests for the public computers to be improved in order to provide better access to technology. To address these issues, the City Council approved and established an appropriation of \$100,000 Capital Improvement Project (CIP), as part of the budget initiative for the fiscal year of 2022-2023.

Working closely with the Information Services Department to select and install computers, Salinas Public Library staff members have been able to gradually replace all public computers at the aforementioned branches. It has resulted in better access to technology and much better outcomes in general for members of the community when it comes to using technology in Salinas Public libraries.

The two main trends are:

- The total amount of time spent by patrons on the new computers has seen a notable increase
- The average length of sessions has nearly doubled after the new computers were installed

The statistics show that the computers that were replaced had become inadequate (slowness, freezing issues, connectivity issues). They also show that the new computers allow patrons to complete projects and tasks at the library without the fear of losing their work half-way through.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

Not a Project. The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378).

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

This request support City Council's Vision and Strategic Goals of Youth and Seniors, and Effective and Culturally Responsive Government, by ensuring that the library continue to provide relevant technological support for community's lifelong learning and recreational needs.

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

The Library and Community Services department will continue to work with the Information Services department to evaluate computers and their usage in the future.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Funding for this project has already been allocated. No further funding is needed at this time.

ATTACHMENTS:

Library Public Computer Upgrades - LCS Presentation 04-04-2024