



**Santiago Library System
Executive Council Regular Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, February 10, 2026
1:00 - 3:00 pm

Meeting Location:
Orange County Public Law Library, 515 N. Flower St., Santa Ana, CA 92703-2354

Alternate Meeting Locations:
Civic Center West, 17101 Armstrong Ave., Irvine, CA 92614
Fullerton Public Library, 353 W. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832
Orange City Parks & Recreation, Community Services Dept.,
230 E. Chapman Ave., Orange, CA 92866

Attendance

Contreras, Jeanette - Placentia Library District
Hansen, Genesis - Mission Viejo Library
Hardy, Leslie - Orange Public Library
Hartson, Melissa - Newport Beach Public Library
Martinez, Zoraida - Yorba Linda Public Library
Edelblute, Thomas - Anaheim Public Library
Medina, Helen - Buena Park Library District
Rodriguez, Marisa - Huntington Beach Public Library
Sarmiento, Beatriz - Fullerton Public Library
Sternberg, Brian - Santa Ana Public Library
Zeoli, Julie - Irvine Public Library
Starkey, Brendan E. - OC Public Law Library

Absent

Quillman, Julie - OC Public Libraries

Other

Beck, Andy - SCLC
Powers, Christine - SCLC
Snodgrass, Nerissa - SCLC
Villalobos, Kaela - CSL

1. Opening

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm.

a. Chairperson's Welcome

Chairperson introduces any guests or new members.

Melissa Hartson

b. Roll Call

2. Public Comment Melissa Hartson
Opportunity for any guest or member of the public to address the Council on any item of Santiago business not represented on the current agenda.
None
3. Consent Calendar Melissa Hartson
All items on the consent calendar may be approved by a single motion. Any Council member may request an item be removed from the consent calendar and placed on the agenda for discussion.
a. Minutes of the December 15, 2025, Special Meeting
(ACTION)
MSP (Starkey/Contreras) to pass the Consent Calendar, without changes.
13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain
4. Adoption of the Agenda Melissa Hartson
The Chair adopted the agenda without objection.
5. Budget Status Report for FY 2025/26 & Preliminary Budget for FY 2026/27 Andy Beck
(DISCUSSION)
Controller, Andy Beck, presented the Budget Status Report for FY 2025/26, as well as the Preliminary Budget for FY 2026/27.
6. Budget Amendment for FY 2025/26 Andy Beck
(ACTION)
MSP (Medina/ Rodriguez) to approve the Budget Amendment for FY 2025/26.
13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain
7. Audit Report FY 2024/25 Andy Beck
(ACTION)
MSP (Hansen/ Hartson) Recommend acceptance of the Financial Audit.
13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain
- Beatriz Sarmiento left the meeting at 2:28 pm.*
8. FY 2026/27 Membership Dues Andy Beck
(ACTION)
MSP (Hansen/ Medina) to approve the membership dues as presented. The Council agrees to revisit the item to discuss at the beginning of FY 26/27.
12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain
9. CLSA FY 2026/27 Planning Christine Powers
(DISCUSSION)
Executive Director, Christine Powers, presented the CLSA FY 2026/27 Planning discussion.

10. Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Vacancy
(ACTION) Christine Powers
No action taken. Vacancies will be filled at the May meeting.
11. Presentation of Vision for California's Public Libraries Jennifer Baker
(DISCUSSION)
Jennifer Baker presented the Vision for California's Public Libraries.
12. Committee Reports
- a. Technology Committee
The committee last met on January 13. The meeting focused on rebuilding momentum. The group is currently working to clarify its goals and define the scope of its work and would benefit from a more formalized process moving forward. Another meeting is scheduled for April 21, signaling that the committee is actively getting back on track.
- b. Children's Services Committee Jeanette Contreras
The committee hosted a performer showcase that sold 135 tickets, drew participation beyond their system, and generated modest net income, with generally positive feedback from attendees. The committee raised follow-up questions about leadership term structures and requested guidance on handling event expenses, particularly catering—more efficiently without relying on reimbursement.
- c. Teen Services Committee Carrie Lixey
The Teen Services Committee met in November at the Yorba Linda Public Library, where they discussed seasonal programming, AI literacy initiatives, staff requirements like food handler certification, volunteer programs, and a decline in attendance. They also agreed to align meeting times with library hours to ensure Brown Act compliance. The next meeting is scheduled for February 18 at Anaheim Central Library and will focus on upcoming programming, officer selection, and roundtable discussions.
- d. Circulation Committee Melissa Hartson
The Circulation Committee is scheduled to meet on February 19 at the Placentia Library. The primary focus of the meeting will be on staff motivation and engagement strategies
- e. Reference Committee Genesis Hansen
None
13. State Library Report Kaela Villalobos
California State Library representative, Kaela Villalobos, presented the State Library Report.
14. Executive Council Chair Report Melissa Hartson
None

15. Other

Melissa Hartson

“...that is, matters initiated in the present meeting.” Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised, III, p.21. Limited by Brown Act to discussion only.

A member requested that an item be added to the next meeting agenda to discuss guidelines for remote committee meetings, including requirements and allowances under the Brown Act.

16. What’s New at Your Library

Melissa Hartson

Opportunity for members to share important updates regarding their libraries that are of interest to the public.

Yorba Linda

The library’s solar project is now complete, and the library has fully reopened its previous parking lot. Patrons and staff are happy to have full access restored.

Orange County Public Law Library

The library will be offering weekend probate workshops to help individuals draft wills, trusts, and related documents, in response to a rise in unnecessary probate cases. In partnership with the Elder Law and Disability Rights Center, attorneys will prepare draft documents in advance so participants can finalize them during the workshop. The sessions will be held at the law library with parking validation provided to reduce barriers to participation.

Buena Park

There is a current vacancy on their Board of Trustees, with recruitment information available on their website. The library is preparing for a temporary relocation to a Centralia Elementary School District facility during an upcoming renovation, which will involve moving out of their entire 45,000-square-foot building in the coming months.

Huntington Beach

The library is continuing work on its Library Facilities Master Plan, with architect recommendations now expected to be presented in March before moving to City Council. The library is also addressing staffing shortages, with nearly a quarter of full-time positions currently vacant and recruitment underway. Additional updates include ongoing fountain repairs with a plan to resolve waterproofing issues by the end of February, and the development of an RFP for a new coffee vendor, with interest in partnering with a local business.

Anaheim

The library reported a highly successful K-pop event in January that exceeded attendance expectations and drew strong community participation. They also shared that their Mystery Authors Luncheon is scheduled for April 19.

Santa Ana

Construction of the new Main Library is expected to be completed by July 1, with an estimated grand opening in mid-October to early November after move-in. The New Hope Branch is nearing completion with a projected opening in May. They also launched a larger bookmobile pilot using a flexible, “ice cream truck–style” service model to reach neighborhoods more dynamically and reported that the library is now fully staffed while keeping an eye on the future sunset of Measure X funding.

Newport Beach

Construction on the lecture hall is nearing completion after ongoing delays, with a revised timeline targeting the end of May and a potential grand opening in mid-July to coincide with the Central Library’s 32nd anniversary. Additionally, bids for the Balboa Branch Library renovation came in favorably, and the branch is expected to close at the end of the month to begin construction on the city’s oldest facility.

Mission Viejo

All currently funded FTE positions have been filled. Their shift to organizing staff by function rather than age group has been successful, and they plan to present this model at an upcoming conference. While a few positions remain unfunded, they are hopeful to add at least one or two roles in the next budget cycle.

17. Adjournment

MS (Starkey/ Hansen) to adjourn the meeting at 3:23 pm.

Melissa Hartson