

CALIFORNIA SPECIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARIES, 1995

Although most California public libraries are organized as departments of general city or county government, a small number are organized as single-purpose districts. Those libraries are governed by a Board of Trustees elected for that specific purpose, and with one exception have an AB 8 property tax proration as their principal source of income. The libraries, and their statutory authority, are:

1. Library Districts (Education Code §§19400-19532)

- Del Norte County Library District
- Palo Verde Valley District Library
- Susanville Library District¹

2. Library Districts and Museums in Unincorporated Towns and Villages² (Education Code §§19600-19734)

- Altadena Library District
- Beaumont District Library
- Buena Park Library District
- Palos Verdes Library District
- Placentia Library District

3. Union School Districts and Union High School Districts Public Libraries³ (Education Code §§18300-18571)

- Banning Unified School District Library District
- Coalinga-Huron Unified School District Library District
- Dixon Unified School District Library District
- Santa Paula Union High School District Public Library District (Blanchard Memorial Library)

Miscellaneous:

■ Sacramento County Library and Sonoma County Library are organized as a Joint Exercise of Powers authorities (Government Code §§6500-6513). For each, the pre-existing local County Library remains established in fact, with the tax benefits from that inuring to the JPA.

■ Vacaville USD Public Library District remains organized and receives its tax rate proration, but operationally is merged with Solano County Library, to which its tax income is given.

■ The Shasta County Regional Library Facilities and Services Commission was established to provide library service to that county, under 1990 special legislation enacting Government Code §§26170-26172.16. Commissioners are appointed by the board of supervisors, city councils, county board of education, and by the commission itself. Its funding is unclear.

■ 28 of the 48 County Libraries organized under the County Free Library Law (Education Code §§19100-19180) have a property tax rate proration, and likely other special-purpose tax-rate entities are sometimes considered as "special districts" for revenue purposes. However, all 48 are organized under the same authority and governance.

¹ The District and a special tax to support it were authorized at the November 1994 general election. The District will succeed the Susanville (City) Public Library when it becomes operational ca. February 1995.

² For all libraries organized under this authority, subsequent incorporations have taken place within the District boundaries.

³ The School District Board of Trustees is ex-officio the Board for the Public Library District, which is coterminous with the school district.