

April 27, 2026

Dear Yolo County Supervisors:

It has recently come to my attention that reduction in staffing for the Yolo County Archives is on the agenda (item #25) for the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

I hope each of you has had the opportunity and pleasure to visit the Yolo County Archives, toured the facility, met our Archives & Records Coordinator and Library Assistant II, and come to realize how valuable their work is to County government and the public.

As I'm sure you are aware, the Yolo County Archives is the official repository for Yolo County records, containing records dating from the 1850s to the present from various Yolo County agencies/departments as well as family collections from community members and local businesses. The Records Center, a component of the Archives, contains original County documents that are *required by law* to be maintained permanently and made available to the public upon request.

My personal experience with the Archives involves learning more about our County's people and cultures through several thoughtfully and beautifully presented outreach projects and a donated family collection.

My husband's families are long time Yolo County residents. The Farnham family arrived in 1850 and the Howard family in 1866. My husband's aunt, Mary Ebbinghausen was born in 1913 and died in 2008 having lived most of her life, except during WWII, in Yolo County. She had an extensive photo collection which we donated to the Archives a few years after her death. At that time, the Archives was in great flux and the collection sat idle at the Archives for at least 15 years. Only now, with two full-time staff members and their ability to supervise multiple volunteers, the collection is processed and cataloged. They have also completed the digitization of the oldest photographs in the collection which will be available online in the coming weeks.

The current level of staffing also gives them time to be attentive and responsive to donors and community members and make sure that the collections that are put in their care are well preserved and, through expedient processing and cataloging, made findable in a timely manner.

With current staffing levels the Archives' staff have been able to develop a responsible, dependable culture of trust and confidence that is needed comfort when handing off a family collection. The Archives is now a very lean unit and remarkably organized and accessible (digitized, and online). It is truly a Yolo County gem and resource to be proud of.

Appendix D (Library) to the agenda lists the significant impacts of staff reductions. "Impacts" is not just a word in this instance. Any staff reduction to the Archives will be highly impactful to their ability to effectively provide important services to County administration and Yolo County public.

I am recommending **no staff time reduction for the Archives** for the many reasons listed above and more pragmatically that the percentage that the Archives' reduction is less than 1% of the total cuts (\$49,294 out of \$13,759,981 total).

Thank you for your consideration,  
Donna Seaver  
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Woodland, CA