

From: [Samantha Garcia](#)
To: [Clerkoftheboard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item #24
Date: Monday, April 27, 2026 5:32:48 PM

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Hello,

My name is Samantha Garcia and I am writing regarding agenda item #24. I am currently a graduate student in the Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) Program at UCLA, but lived in Davis from 2021-2025 while attending UC Davis for my undergraduate education. From July 2023-August 2025 I was a researcher and volunteer at the Yolo County Archives, an experience that ultimately led to my decision to pursue a career as an archivist. This is why I was extremely disheartened to learn of the proposal to reduce the library assistant position from full to half time.

In July of 2023 I had the honor of participating in the "Uncovering Diverse Histories of Yolo County" project through UC Davis. I could immediately tell both Rachel and Heather had immense historical knowledge of Yolo County and where to find the information we were looking for. The support we were getting from the archives and their intense involvement in our research allowed us to find materials quicker, easier, and more accurately. Without their support, it is unlikely we would have been able to successfully create a public display at the Woodland Opera House or develop a lesson plan for elementary students in Yolo County schools.

Following that project, I continued volunteering at the archives, working closely with Rachel. She was patient, generous with her knowledge, and deeply committed to making my experience meaningful. Her work ethic and approach to archival work have inspired my own pursuit of an MLIS degree in the hopes that I can support patrons the same way Rachel does. She has personally mentored me through my first-ever archives experience, learning of archives skills, and my graduate school application. I know there are many other people who have had just as impactful experiences working with her. Reducing her position will be a great disservice to the residents of Yolo County who deserve meaningful access to their shared history and public information. There are so many young people, like myself who will benefit greatly from working with Rachel and I would hate to see that opportunity taken from them.

As someone who has worked in libraries, county archives, and community archives I can attest to the fact that most of these institutions are already underfunded and understaffed. Archives and libraries are spaces that do more than just pull and scan materials. The archives particularly serve as an educational hub, a community center, and a preserver of history. Even with two full-time staff members, the archives already operate under significant constraints. A reduction in staffing would inevitably limit their ability to serve the public effectively.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal and keep the library assistant position on as full time. I encourage you to reflect on what this decision will mean for the person that remains in this position as the costs of living rise as well as the over 220,000 Yolo County residents that you are limiting access to information for.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Best,
Samantha Garcia