



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Quality, Excellence, Innovation

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DIRECTOR

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SUBJECT: Acquisition of Historic Survey Record Collection from Bill Schroeder

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: 1) Authorize the purchase for \$45,000; and 2) direct the Department of Finance to make necessary budget appropriation adjustments per the Fiscal Impact section

SUMMARY: Bill Schroeder has been the caretaker of historic survey records for numerous surveyors who have worked in Marin County. The records date back to 1849 and encompass about 30,000 original maps, surveys, plats, subdivisions, field notes, work ledgers and indexes. The records include work by former prominent surveyors Hiram Austin, George Dodge, George Richardson, J. C. Oglesby, and others.

The identification of property boundaries is important to all property owners in Marin County, as well as preservation and access to that information. Property boundaries have a long and storied history in California through Spanish, Mexican, and American rule. Indeed, California's recording and map acts of the late 1800s led the way to boundary records of early surveyor and property owners. Retracing historical and unrecorded surveys helps identify boundaries from original evidence. In addition to historical maps and deeds filed with the County Recorder, evidence from the private records of former surveyors can assist in boundary interpretation.

Further, historical researchers who have viewed the collection have stated that it has major local historical significance as an information source towards understanding the cultural history of Marin County by detailing its physical development and planning. The collection will provide unique and valuable background material for present day parcel owners.

The identification of property boundaries is important to all property owners in Marin County. Property boundaries are created by the original surveyor and original property owner. Retracing surveyors identify boundaries from the original evidence. Although historically maps and deeds were filed with the County Recorder, additional evidence from the private records of former surveyors can assist in interpretation.

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When approached by Bill Schroeder about his desire to transfer the caretaker role for these documents to another entity, DPW staff reached out to Library and Assessor-Recorder-Clerk staff to see if there is interest. Both Departments expressed overwhelming support due to the unique nature of these documents. The Library offered to manage the archive, similar to other historical document management they provide in the Anne T. Kent California Room.

FISCAL IMPACT: There are limited comparisons to establish the value of the collection, and the surveys staff has consulted with estimate its value to exceed \$75,000, which staff feels is a reasonable estimate. County staff worked with the Marin Chapter of the California Land Surveyors Association in this acquisition. The Chapter has pledged \$15,000 towards the purchase and is actively pursuing additional private donations. Staff proposes that the County pay \$45,000 towards the purchase from the Survey Monument Preservation fund (25023), a fund established by your Board under Marin County Code Chapter 3.49 to pay the necessary expenses to retrace or re-monument historical land division lines upon which later surveys are based. These records support those efforts.

Moving expenses are estimated at \$1,900 and will be paid from the Survey Monument Preservation Fund (25023). Staff also recommends that to continue managing these records and make them available to researchers, that Survey Monument Preservation Funds support library expenses of \$2,500 annually. The total impact by this action is \$47,500.

REVIEWED BY:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department of Finance	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Counsel	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A

Respectfully submitted,



Craig Tackabery
Chief Assistant Director

FMBB# 100024149 (one-time adjustment – 45,000)