MEMORANDUM

Date: January 4, 2017

To: The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

Re: Geasa-Marana Library Building Sale and Transfer to the Marana Unified School District

Following conversations with the District 3 Supervisor, the Marana School District Superintendent, the Library Director and staff, the County will sell to the Marana Unified School District (MUSD) the Geasa-Marana Library in the coming months. The Geasa-Marana Library is underutilized because there is a larger regional facility located at the Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library at Interstate 10 and Cortaro Road. The Bookmobile will stop near the Geasa-Marana Library to continue to provide a level of library service in the area.

The market value of the property is $470,800. The MUSD has offered $300,000 in cash, and the balance of the 90 percent value transfer (required by Arizona law) will be in the form of land retained by the County for a future library facility in the Town of Marana.

MUSD has an urgent need to utilize the facility for the technology programs integrated in the District’s curriculum.

The Library Advisory Board was advised of this transfer in the attached December 23, 2016 memorandum from the Interim Library Director.

Proceeds from the sale of the library will be deposited in the Library District capital budget and will offset the pay-as-you-go library expansion of the Flowing Wells Branch.

The short-term capital pay-as-you-go program for the Library District is to complete the expansion of the Flowing Wells Branch, construct a small (5,000 square feet) facility near Houghton and Mary Ann Cleveland Roads at the previously acquired Esmond Station Regional Park property, and complete land acquisition for a new regional library in the Sahuarita area.

CHH/anc

cc: Tom Burke, Deputy County Administrator for Administration  
Amber Mathewson, Interim Library Director, Library District  
Lisa Josker, Director, Facilities Management
As of January 27, 2017 at 5 pm, library services will cease at the Geasa-Marana Library. The building will be transferred to the Marana Unified School District (MUSD) for information technology uses.

The space at 13370 N. Lon Adams Road was never originally intended to serve as a library, but as a Sheriff’s Department substation. Although a 1995 remodel and enlargement increased square footage to 2,900, the space contains multiple small storage rooms and holding cells, which cannot be used by the Library without incurring renovation costs.

In its current form, the building is better equipped for use by MUSD, whose administrators plan to use it as office space dedicated to their ongoing commitment to offer computer-based and technological programs at its seventeen schools across 550 square miles.

Building a new facility in North Marana is high priority and will be pursued alongside other vital projects. County and Library officials are currently exploring the possibility of locating a future library in conjunction with the school district. When pursued, the issue would be brought to voters in a bond proposal.

Marana community members are encouraged to use the larger, regional Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library, located off the I-10 N. Cortaro Road exit; open 59 hours 7 days of the week. At 24,000 square feet, this library features more than 75,000 items in its collection and offers 57 public use computers.

Library staff recognizes the ongoing need for services in Northern Marana and has made arrangements for its Bookmobile to make a stop one Saturday a month near the Geasa-Marana building. In addition to being a source for customers of all ages to check out books, the Bookmobile has recently been outfitted with WiFi and laptops to provide internet access.