CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 4

MEETING DATE: Thursday, May 28, 2009

AGENDA ITEM #: 10

ITEM: REPORT FROM COUNTY LIBRARIAN

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
- None
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 5

MEETING DATE: Thursday, May 28, 2009
AGENDA ITEM #: 11 A
ITEM: LEGISLATION

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

- Library Commissioners will share their experience from Library Legislative Day in Sacramento on April 15, 2009.
GOVERNOR RELEASES TWO VERSIONS OF "MAY REVISION" OF BUDGET: ONE PLAN BORROWS $2 BILLION FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT

May 14, 2009

In an unprecedented move, today Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger released his annual "May Revision" of the Budget, and proposed two different versions of the "Revise," which are based on the possible outcomes of the May 19th statewide special election. Version #1 of the May Revision assumes that the ballot measures pass, but the so-called "contingency" May Revise assumes that the ballot measures do not pass, thus leaving a $21.3 billion hole in the state Budget. In his afternoon press event, the Governor stated that the state needs to "plan for either proposal." He added that since the enactment of the February Budget package, the revenue numbers have "changed dramatically" and noted that for the first time since 1938, there has been a drop in personal income taxes. The Director of the Department of Finance, Mike Genest, echoed the Governor's statements noting, "Disturbingly, we will close this year (2008-09) $5 billion in the hole."

Most significant is the proposal in the Governor's "contingency" May Revise to borrow $2 billion from local governments if the May 19th ballot initiatives fail. You will recall that we alerted you to this possibility last week. The Governor's "contingency" May Revise reads:

"$1.982 billion - Borrowing from Local Government. The May Revision contingency plan proposes to borrow eight percent of the property tax revenues received by cities, counties, and special districts in 2008-09 as authorized in Article XIII of Section 25.5 of the Constitution. Repayment must be made within the next three years. Legislation is also proposed to create a joint powers authority to allow local agencies to borrow against the state repayment as a group."

When asked about the proposal to borrow from local government, the Governor stated, "I absolutely despise taking from local government. This is the worst case scenario. It affects our services to police, fire, parks and libraries." Later in the press conference the Governor added,
"There is no other way out. We have to pay it back in three years and we hope the economy improves." Please note: This proposal, and all other May Revise proposals by the Governor, will be subject to extensive discussion in the legislature in the coming weeks. When this issue is set in its appropriate Budget subcommittee for hearing, we will alert you and you will have the opportunity to write the members to encourage them to reject the Governor’s proposal to borrow from local government. In addition, you may continue writing the 4 legislative leaders and the Governor to express your concerns.

The press asked the Governor if releasing the so-called "contingency version" of the May Revise was merely a "scare tactic" to encourage voters to vote for the ballot initiatives on May 19th. The Governor stated, "It is important to let the people know what the numbers are and the choices ahead." The Governor was also asked if he anticipated looking at new revenues as a solution, to which the Governor responded, "Looking for new revenues is out of the question. We have to do this with cuts and borrowing. Anyone who has a problem with this approach needs to come forward with a pencil and paper and tell us how to do this...Everyone is very clear in this Capitol. I won't sign a Budget with taxes or even a majority vote Budget."

Other major areas impacted by the Governor’s proposals are: proposed deep cuts to K-12 education and higher education, cuts to Medi-cal and to programs benefitting the aged, blind, and disabled, and prison programs. The Governor is also suggesting the elimination of several boards and commissions, the imposition of various new fees, and some fund shifts. It is important to note that, at this point, it does not appear that the Governor - in either May Revise document - proposes any additional cuts to library programs under the State Library (such as PLF, TBR, Literacy, etc.)

Submitted by Michael Dillon and Christina DiCaro, CLA Lobbyists

Tell A Friend

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I. LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE RELEASES UPDATE ON STATE'S CASH FLOW

This morning the state's Legislative Analyst released a new report entitled, "California's Cash Flow Crisis: May 2009 Update." In the report, the LAO cautions: "The General Fund's 'cash cushion' - the monies available to pay state bills at any given time - currently is projected to end 2008-09 at a much lower level than normal. Without additional legislative measures to address the state's fiscal difficulties or unprecedented amounts of borrowing from the short-term credit markets, the state will not be able to pay many of its bills on time for much of its 2009-2010 fiscal year." The LAO goes on to state, "In our opinion, the greatest near-term threat to state cash flows would be an inability by state leaders to quickly address California's Budget Imbalance."

The LAO remarks that the state has a cash cushion of $6.9 billion to take them through to June 30, but that amount is "roughly one-half of the cash cushion the state had one year before." Another complicating factor will be the success or failure of the ballot initiatives on the May 19th ballot. For example, should the ballot measures fail, the state's borrowing requirement from private investors in 2009-10 would "swell to around $23 billion." The LAO cautions that "major financial institutions reportedly have indicated to state officials that California will have difficulty borrowing $13 billion from the short-term markets based on its own credit in 2009-10 - let alone the much larger amount of around $23 billion..." and recommends that borrowing for cash flow purposes should not exceed $10 billion. (e.g. This means more cuts.)

The LAO suggests that some options to address the widening Budget gap and subsequent cash flow issue would be: increase state revenues, decrease expenditures, defer payments to schools yet again, and accelerate the issuance of lottery securitization bonds.

Interestingly, today Assembly Speaker Karen Bass is in Washington D.C., speaking to federal officials about California's problematic state finances. However, the LAO warns in today's report that the legislature
should "be cautious about accepting any strings that might be attached to federal assistance. Strings attached to recent corporate bailouts - as well as federal loan guarantees provided to New York City during its fiscal crisis three decades ago - have included measures to remove financial and operational autonomy from executives. We recommend that the Legislature agree to no substantial diminishment in the role of California’s elected state leaders. In our opinion, the difficult decisions to balance the state’s budget now are preferable to Californians losing some control over the state’s finances and priorities to federal officials for years to come."

II. ACA 9-HUFFMAN: 55% VOTE FOR BONDS AND LOCAL TAXES PASSES FIRST COMMITTEE

Yesterday the Assembly Local Government Committee heard ACA 9 by Assemblyman Jared Huffman which lowers the vote threshold for local bonded indebtedness projects from the current two-thirds vote to a 55% vote. It would also change the two-thirds voter approval requirement for special taxes to 55% of the voters voting on a tax. In his opening remarks, Assemblyman Huffman noted that "Proposition 13 sharply constrained local government's ability to raise revenues...The current situation is pretty bleak for local government. The federal stimulus will help, but it is a drop in the bucket and it doesn't address infrastructure needs. The state is running out of credit. How revenues are raised are the most acute and tangible at the local level."

Assemblyman Huffman presented several examples of bond or tax campaigns that received 62% of the vote of the local electorate, yet still fell short of the required two-thirds majority. He argued, thus, that a "small majority of voters thwart the will of the majority."

Support for ACA 9 consisted of representatives from police, fire, water and wastewater, transit, parks and recreation, the League of Cities, the California State Association of Counties, and CLA. The measure was opposed by the California Association of Realtors and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. Several committee members expressed their support of the measure by noting that it is "important to give communities a choice on what they wish to do." The measure passed on a bipartisan vote of 5 to 2 to the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee for a second policy committee hearing. If ACA 9 eventually makes it to the Assembly Floor for a vote, it will require a two-thirds vote for passage, which will be very difficult to obtain, in light of traditional Republican opposition to similar measures.

III. CLA EXPLORES AVAILABILITY OF FEDERAL ARRA FUNDS FOR LIBRARIES

For the last several months, the legislature has engaged in preliminary discussions regarding how the state will implement portions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Some policy areas, such as K-12 education, water, and transportation have been more active than others, as early deadlines to apply for federal money in those segments are in full swing. Overall, however, the process has been relatively slow, confusing, and extremely detailed in nature, as
California is guarding against just "throwing money" at projects, and stresses the need for accountability and reporting for how the money is spent.

With regard to libraries and ARRA, there has been some confusion. Rumors circulated early on that public libraries would be able to draw down ARRA dollars for construction of new facilities or possibly renovation of existing facilities. There is no language contained in the ARRA California plan that indicates that libraries specifically, or even schools, are eligible for the construction or rehabilitation funding, and this has been confirmed at several different levels at the Capitol.

Second, while other states' public libraries may be benefitting from ARRA dollars for infrastructure, California is unique in that they have chosen to use a good portion of an undesignated $1.1 billion set-aside to backfill the state Budget deficit. CLA continues to work very hard on your behalf to see if we can identify other emerging pots of money to benefit public libraries. For weeks, we have been actively engaged with a key Senate Committee that has requested detailed information from CLA and the State Library relative to statewide broadband needs.

Additionally, a representative from the CLA Legislative Committee, Deborah Doyle, recently appeared before the Public Utilities Commission on behalf of CLA to stress the need to provide broadband services to the underserved and to provide increased bandwidth to libraries with slow speed capabilities. Lastly, we continue to pursue available ARRA dollars for public libraries in the workforce investment arena. We will keep you posted as details emerge.

IV. ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN LEADER VILLINES STEPS DOWN - SUCCESSOR IS NAMED

Yesterday afternoon the lobbying corps received surprising news - that the affable and always approachable Assemblyman Mike Villines was stepping down from his post as Assembly Republican Leader. You may recall that Assemblyman Villines had served as Republican Leader for two and a half years, but most recently was involved in the high level negotiations for the difficult and protracted Budget debate in February and March. His job to help facilitate an agreement was made very difficult, as almost every member of his caucus signed a "no new taxes" pledge, and conservative radio stations threatened to recall any Republican who supported the Budget.

When Assemblyman Villines stepped down from his post today he noted that "It has been a privilege for me to lead Assembly Republicans over these past two and a half years and achieve so many positive changes for our state. California still faces many significant challenges and now, more than ever, we must stand unified as Republicans and work hard to get California back on track." Following this announcement, the Assembly Republican Caucus elected Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee (R-33) as their new leader. He represents the communities of Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, Morro Bay, etc. Dr. Sam Blakeslee served in the leadership team of Assemblyman Villines and is a published research scientist and president of an investment firm. Not unlike Assemblyman Villines, Blakeslee is well liked by his colleagues and the lobbying community, and is considered to be a thoughtful
problem solver.

Submitted by Michael Dillon and Christina DiCaro, CLA Lobbyists

Talk A Friend

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MEETING DATE: Thursday, May 28, 2009
AGENDA ITEM #: 11 B
ITEM: MUSEUM PASS PROGRAM

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Commissioners will report on the results of polling their Friends groups about the Museum Pass program proposal by Don Tatzin, Mayor of Lafayette, at the March Commission Meeting.
Visit your library and check out a museum” is the tagline for the Museum Adventure Pass (MAP) program, which is being held in the greater metro Detroit area for the second year. This unique partnership between libraries and cultural and arts organizations is designed both to promote libraries and provide free access to arts and culture for people of all ages. The MAP collaboration has proved to be a major success in encouraging visits to both local libraries and cultural organizations.

The Museum Adventure Pass program had more than 100,000 participants in its first year, and for its second year has expanded to 179 libraries and 25 museums, cultural centers and historic sites. To “set the adventure begin,” participants choose their local library, choose the museum they would like to visit, and check out a MAP. Museum Adventure Passes expire in seven days, and are limited to general admission. Museum admission is available to either two or four people per pass, depending on the organization.

The program is sponsored by Macy’s, the Library of Michigan Foundation and the Cultural Alliance of Southeastern Michigan, in addition to several media sponsors. The Library of Michigan Foundation’s role is to coordinate participating libraries. The only costs incurred by participating libraries and the Library of Michigan Foundation were the administrative costs of running the program. Macy’s sponsorship covered the costs of publicity and collateral printing (posters, bookmarks, checkout cards, museum passes, buttons, and banners).

“Are we thrilled to be a part of this truly innovative approach to education and cultural access,” says Library of Michigan Foundation Executive Director Judith K. Moore. “What a great way for people, especially those with less means, to discover and visit our cultural attractions. We are also very excited to see how the program is helping drive traffic to libraries and promote libraries as critical components of learning and building quality of life in Michigan.”

Judith notes that “MAP can easily be replicated in other communities. And that’s the beauty of it. This program has inspired a unique model for organizations everywhere to engage citizens in the arts and cultural landscape where everyone benefits.”

Kimberley Potter, Director of Redford Township District Library, says that the program has been a great success in her library. “In these tough economic times in Michigan, especially in the southeastern part of the state which is so affected by the car company problems, we are seeing many of our residents affected by layoffs or job loss, and foreclosure,” she says. “This program brings enjoyment to families that couldn’t ordinarily afford the entrance fees.”

Francene Sanak, Director of Trenton Veterans Memorial Library, says “On the first day that passes were available for the Detroit Institute of Arts, we had people lined up outside the door before the library opened to check out the passes.”

Each participating library branch, as well as bookmobiles, has five passes for check-out for each of the participating organizations. Library cardholders who check out a pass also receive a comprehensive brochure about the program, and can visit www.detroitadventurepass.org to find a list of resources, including suggested readings and DVDs, to complement their museum experience. The second Museum Adventure Pass program runs Oct. 25, 2008, to Oct. 24, 2009.

To ensure a successful MAP experience, participants are encouraged to call ahead to their local library to ensure they have borrowing privileges. Passes are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and cannot be reserved or renewed; passes are limited to one per person, per check-out period, and do not need to be returned to the library. Participants are encouraged to visit museum Web sites or call ahead to check on current hours and exhibition information.

Among the participating organizations are the Arab American National Museum, Automotive Hall of Fame, Detroit Artists Market, Detroit Children’s Museum, Detroit Historical Museum, Howell Nature Center, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit and the University of Michigan Exhibit Museum of Natural History. Many participating organizations offer special discounts along with the use of a MAP, such as $5 off membership or 10% off any museum store purchase.

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friends Team Up with Alumni Association to Launch Online Book Club

The Friends of the Janet D. Greenwood Library (Longwood University, Farmville, VA) have teamed up with the Longwood Alumni Association to sponsor the Longwood BookLink, an online book club blog.

Nancy Shelton, Director of Alumni Relations, approached the library with the idea of a virtual book club as a place for alumni to participate in structured discussion on books from various genres and authors. It allows alumni to discuss a novel with others on their own schedule, rather than a fixed meeting time and place. Book club participants can meet her alumni from all over the country for discussion on a common interest. For the Friends Group, one benefit is having a link to the Friends of the Greenwood library site on the Alumni Association homepage.

The Longwood Book Club Blog is located at www.longwoodlink.com/blog/LUBookClub. Guidelines for participation and bw the works posted are at the site.

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Maud Margaret Lyon, Executive Director of the Cultural Alliance of Southwestern Michigan, says that “The universal experience of our museums has been that our MAP visitors have never been to their institutions before. Our museums are a part of the region, including many from counties one distance from the museum. We expect that these visitors generate exactly the kind of community word-of-mouth emotion that is the best way to spend the base of support for local museums, and to generate future audience growth.”

The Detroit Children’s Museum ports that the attendance figures have had a substantial increase since the launch of the program. During the 2007-2008 MAP program, the museum collected 082 MAP passes, for a total of 7,554 visitors, who have come from all of the libraries participating in the MAP program.

Ms. Lyon adds that the MAP program creates public awareness of the museums even for those who don’t follow through with a visit, since there are displays about the program in every library branch, and banners on building exteriors. “For small museums with very limited marketing budgets, this is invaluable exposure.”

In addition, the MAP program has helped to connect librarians to museum staff. Three Librarian Appreciation receptions were held in the museums to thank library staff who have been promoting the MAP program. “Too often, libraries and museums live in different worlds,” says Ms. Lyon. “MAP has been the way to connect them, both in local communities and across the region.”

For more information about the Museum Adventure Pass program, visit www.detroitadventurepass.com.

Upcoming Events

School Library Media Month
April 2009
www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslissues/aasladvocacy/schoollibrary.cfm

National Library Week
April 12-18, 2009
www.ala.org/ala/pio/riatlibraryweek/nlww.htm

National Library Workers Day
April 15, 2009
www.ala-apa.org/about/nlwd.html

National Volunteer Week
April 27-May 3, 2009
www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw/

Children’s Book Week
May 11-17, 2009
www.cbbcbooks.org

Book Expo America
May 28-31, 2009
http://www.bookexpoamerica.com

ALA Annual Conference
July 9-15, 2009
http://www.ala.org/ala/conferences/events/upcoming/annual/index.cfm

Library Card Sign-Up Month
September
http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/publicawareness/alainitiatives/otherinitiatives/card/librarycard.

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Please update your mailing list with our new address so we may continue to receive your news in a timely manner.

109 S. 13th Street
Suite 3-N
Philadelphia, PA 19107

If you haven’t added us to your newsletter mailing list, please do! We love to read about Friends and libraries around the country, and you just might be featured in a future issue of News Update! Electronic newsletters are always welcome to bnawalinski@ala.org.
Discover, Experience and Enjoy

Live, Wild Animals

Lindsay Wildlife Museum
Connecting people with wildlife since 1955

Hear a Bald Eagle Call.

Watch a fox eat his lunch!

FREE FAMILY PASS
GET YOUR FREE FAMILY PASS TODAY
Just ask your librarian - Free admission for up to 2 adults and 4 children, one day only.

See Live Reptiles, Squirrels and Owls.
Take this fantastic opportunity to visit a unique kind of museum. Experience native, wild animals up-close and enjoy family learning and discovery!

Lindsay Wildlife Museum
1931 First Avenue
Walnut Creek, CA 94597
www.wildlife-museum.org
925-935-1978

This pass is made possible by grants from the Dean & Margaret Leafer Foundation and the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, and a partnership with the Contra Costa County Library.

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Lindsay Wildlife Museum
Descubre Y Disfruta
los animales no domesticados en
Lindsay Wildlife Museum
Connecting people with wildlife since 1955
¡Escucha a un águila!
¡Mira com-er a una zorra!
PASE FAMILIAR GRATIS
¡RIDE TU PASE FAMILIAR GRATIS HOY MISMO!
(Sólo pregunta aquí. Admisión gratuita válida por hasta 2 adultos y 4 niños por un día)
¡Conoce a reptiles y ardillas!
Aprovecha esta fantástica oportunidad de visitar un museo único. ¡Aprende sobre los animales no domesticados que viven en nuestros alrededores, cógcelos de cerca y disfruta con tu familia!
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Lindsay Wildlife Museum