CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 5

MEETING DATE: Thursday, May 19, 2011
AGENDA ITEM #: 12 A
ITEM: LEGISLATION

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

- Commissioners will share their experience from attendance at Library Legislative Day in Sacramento on May 18, 2011.
To: Library Commissioners  
Library Friends and Foundation Presidents

Date: May 11, 2011

From: Barbara L. Flynn, County Librarian

SUBJECT: 2011 CLA/CALTAC Library Legislative Day & Read-In - Wednesday, May 18, 2011

The California Library Association (CLA) and California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners' (CALTAC) Library Legislative Day will be held on Wednesday, May 19, 2011, at the California State Capitol. This is a day when representatives from all types of libraries from across the State visit with their local legislators.

9:00 A.M. Registration Opens at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria

10:00 A.M. Legislative Day Presentations

11:00 A.M. Depart for Legislative Appointments at the Capitol or for Lunch.

2:00 P.M. Read-In at the East lawn of the Capitol (N & 12th Street).

4:30 P.M. Legislative Day Wrap Up

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<th>TIME</th>
<th>LEGISLATOR</th>
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<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Senator Loni Hancock</td>
<td>Room 2082</td>
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<td>1:30 P.M.</td>
<td>Senator Mark DeSaulnier</td>
<td>Room 5035</td>
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<td>TBD</td>
<td>Assemblymember Joan Buchanan</td>
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<td>Assemblymember Nancy Skinner</td>
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<td>TBD</td>
<td>Assemblymember Susan Bonilla</td>
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*Telephone numbers are in 916 area code

Our group will include Library staff, members of the County Library Commission, Library Friends groups, representatives from other libraries and other library supporters.

Register yourself with the California Library Association to attend this event. It is easy to register online at http://www.cla-net.org/

Contact Corinne Kelly, Executive Secretary, either by phone at (925) 927-3206 or by e-mail ckelley@ccclib.org and let her know that you have registered and will be attending.
GOVERNOR TO RELEASE THE “MAY REVISION” OF THE BUDGET NEXT MONDAY

Plan On Attending CLA’s Legislative Day on Wednesday For The Latest Update

May 12, 2011

Mike Dillon and Christina DiCaro, CLA Lobbyists

The Governor is expected to release his “May Revision” of the Budget on May 16th, which will reflect changes in revenues and expenditures to the 2011-12 State Budget that he introduced in January. The revised Budget will also reflect how those changes will affect specific Budget programs and Departments. Specifically, the Governor’s “May Revision” often contains specific, targeted reductions, intended to help close additional Budget holes. Shortly thereafter, the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) will release a review of the “May Revise,” which will provide a detailed, non-partisan review of the updated revenue and expenditures reported by the Governor.

While recent news articles have reported an increase of approximately $2.5 billion in revenue collections, primarily from March and April income tax receipts, officials in the Department of Finance caution that the Governor’s proposed tax extensions, which were proposed as part of his January Budget, are still needed for the state to address the $26 billion Budget deficit.

In recent weeks, Budget talks have slowed significantly between Republicans and Democrats, and additionally with the Governor. Legislators, lobbyists, and the press are actively anticipating the May Revision details, as it is not known if the Governor will release a revised “all cuts Budget” in order to signify the dire consequences for state and local programs, should the tax extension package not be adopted.

As of this writing, the Budget contains a funding level of $8.5 million for the California Library Services Act, a $3.7 million level for the California Library Literacy Services program, and $3 million in the baseline for the Public Library Foundation. These numbers reflect a hard-fought “Budget Compromise” that we negotiated on behalf of the California Library Association, with the four legislative leaders, the Budget Subcommittees, and the powerful members of the Budget Conference Committee. This week we met with the Governor’s Deputy Director in the Department of Finance and made one last push before they go to print with the May Revise, encouraging them to maintain the level of funding for these three programs, as negotiated by the legislature. Since the development of the May Revise is a highly confidential process, we have no indication how the Governor may address these three programs in his document to be released on Monday.

Once the May Revision is public, the Budget Subcommittees will commence hearings yet again on the Budget, and the whole process will repeat itself, with the Budget Conference Committee ultimately reconvening to discuss major issues relative to the Budget package in June, with hopes that an agreement can be reached during the summer months.

Please plan to join CLA in Sacramento on Wednesday, May 18th to lobby legislators on the State Budget, as well as several important pieces of legislation that the CLA Legislative Committee has been
tracking this year. For information on how you can be a part of the CLA Legislative Day activities and advocacy effort, please visit www.cla-net.org for registration information as well as helpful tools to use during your visits with legislators. Senator Leland Yee has introduced SB 602, which seeks to protect the private reading records and personal information of an individual using a commercial book service provider. The bill, which is jointly sponsored by the ACLU and the Electronic Frontier Foundation, was heard this week in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Specifically, a book services provider would be prohibited from knowing disclosing to any government entity, or be compelled to disclose to any person or entity, the personal information of a user related to the use of a book, except pursuant to a search warrant, court order, or with the user's affirmative consent, as specified. The bill is in response to the large level of interest in eBooks and digital readers, and the fact that "digital book services have the ability to collect and retain very detailed information about readers...Digital book providers can easily track what books an individual considers, how often a given book is read, how long a given page is viewed, and even what notes are written in the 'margins.'" (source: Senate Judiciary Committee analysis). In addition to the sponsors, the bill was also supported in committee by CLA, Privacy Rights Clearing House, and others. The bill passed out of committee with little debate. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairwoman Noreen Evans called SB 602 "a good bill in an ongoing series of legislation in this area to keep up with technology." (Two weeks prior, SB 445-Simitian – library circulation records – was also passed by the committee.)
2011 CLA/CALTAC Library Legislative Day & Read-In
Wednesday, May 18, 2011 (10:00 AM - 4:30 PM)

Presented by California Library Association Legislative & Advocacy Committee and the California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners

Registration Deadline: May 16, 2011

State Library funding is still in danger. We need your help!

Please join the California Library Association (CLA), the California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners (CAATL), and other library advocates on Wednesday, May 18, 2011 at the State Capitol in Sacramento for Legislative Day 2011. The Governor’s proposed 2011-12 California budget eliminated $30.4 million—almost all funding for library programs. Since January, CLA has kept $15 million in funding for public libraries in the Legislature’s budget, saving the CLSA, the PLF, and the literacy programs from elimination.

If the Legislature moves to an “all cuts Budget,” this remaining baseline funding would almost certainly be identified as an additional potential cut. Your active participation during CLA Legislative Day is extremely important.

Library Legislative Day, Wednesday, May 18, 2011, is our opportunity to speak once again about the importance of libraries to our legislators and to thank them for their support this year. We will start our day 10:00am at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria next to the Sacramento Public Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814-2589. There are several parking structures, the State Capitol. The parking structure located at the Sacramento Public Library has an early bird special if you’re in by 9:00am and out by 7:00pm (no in and out privileges).

After the program at the Galleria, all attendees will have time to grab a bite to eat and attend scheduled meetings with legislators at the State Capitol.
Advocacy Tools

These tools are to assist you in your advocacy.

Materials

- Sample 2011 Letter to Legislators on Library Funding
- Talking Points 2011 (113k)
- Tips for Lobbying Your Legislator 2011 (137)
- Funds by Assembly District 2011 (162k)
- Funds by Senate District 2011 (141k)

Helpful Links

- CAPWIZ Legislative Action Center
- Read the Latest Legislative Updates
- CLA Advocacy & Legislation Blog
- Find your Assembly Member or State Senator
- Locate and track bills in the California State Legislature
- The USA PATRIOT Act, and What You Can Do

Key Legislative 2011 Budget Contacts

- Key Legislative 2011 Budget Contacts
Tips for Lobbying Your Legislator: Addressing Governor Brown’s 2011-12 Library Budget Cuts

By Mike Dillon and Christina DiCaro, CLA Lobbyists

“SHOCK AND AWE” BUDGET REQUIRES A UNIQUE APPROACH TO LOBBYING

The 2011-12 Budget, unveiled by Governor Jerry Brown on January 10th, is one of the most challenging budgets that the California Library Association and library interest groups have ever had to respond to. The Governor’s Budget proposes the total elimination of three important library programs, as the Administration attempts to push more services that were previously administered by the state down to the local level. These unprecedented cuts, totaling $30.4 million, affect the California Library Services Act (funding for the systems and cooperative loaning and lending), the California Library Literacy Services, and the Public Library Foundation.

The Budget is not only unique in its devastating impact on library programs, but the Governor is also asking the legislature to respond quickly, seeking $12 billion in cuts to programs by the first week in March.

This expedited Budget schedule means that library supporters will need to act now, in order to make the desired impact with key legislators.

WRITE, FAX, OR CALL THE KEY BUDGET LEGISLATORS AND YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TODAY

Please recognize the sense of urgency surrounding this very real Budget threat. If the Budget Subcommittee members, key Budget Chairs and Vice Chairs, and the Legislative leaders do not hear from the CLA membership and library interest groups in the next few weeks that these proposed cuts are strongly opposed by you and your colleagues, all may be lost. The Budget Subcommittees are the critical first (and often, last) place that an issue of this magnitude is vetted and publicly debated. The Budget subcommittees will make a recommendation to the full Budget Committee in each house as to whether or not they think funding should be preserved for any or all of the three library programs. Without the subcommittees’ endorsement of the three programs, it will be extremely hard to save them down the road. (See information on how to contact key legislators on the CLA website under “Day in the District” tools.)

THE MESSAGING THIS YEAR MUST BE DIFFERENT, MORE FOCUSED

DO: Participate in “Day in the District” on Friday, January 28 or Friday, February 4th (or a day of your choosing in February). These visits may be the single most important piece of advocacy you can do this year. Your visit, one-on-one, with your legislator in the district will allow you to have an extensive conversation about the programs targeted in the Governor’s Budget, and relationships will be strengthened between you and your representative. Don’t forget to leave information for your legislator about your library and
the programs you provide. You may want to leave them with a copy of their funds received by district. This run is courtesy of the State Library and appears on the CLA website under “Day in the District.”

DO: Explain to your legislator, in practical terms, what the loss of a program such as the California Library Services Act (e.g. Transaction Based Reimbursement) would mean to your library. If the systems were to cease their existence due to lack of funding, would your library likely refuse to loan to non-residents? If you lost literacy funding, how many Adult learners in your library would not be served?

DO: Start from scratch. Often if a legislator does not sit on the Budget Subcommittees or Budget Conference Committee, or did not previously serve in local government, they do not understand the myriad of services you offer, nor would they know the impacts of the loss of these funds. If you are talking to a Freshman legislator or a legislator that is not directly involved with the Budget, assume they need to be educated on the basics of all of these programs.

DO: Stress that the CLSA and the literacy programs are state programs, and they would not be good candidates for a shift to the local level.

DO: Keep it positive and practical. Since every conceivable programmatic area of the Budget is being cut in the Governor’s Budget, it is important that your message is not one of “Don’t cut us.” Rather, we will be more successful with our messaging if we offer a more pragmatic approach such as:

“Our lobbyists have been actively working with the Budget Subcommittees and the leadership to find a reasoned compromise that will allow the state to make some reductions to these three programs, all the while protecting a level of service that won’t dismantle the programs.”

USE THE TOOLS PROVIDED BY CLA

CLA is in the unique position of having to launch a major, statewide effort to encourage members to write, fax, or call legislators, within in a very short timeframe. A Steering Committee was established to create tools that you can use in order to convey your message. These tools are posted on the CLA website under “Day in the District” and are available for your use in your “Day in the District” meetings or can be utilized in the formation of your letters to your legislators. The tools include the names of key legislators and their contact information, as well as Talking Points and two PDFs from the State Library indicating the funds broken down by Assembly and Senate districts.

REMEM BER

PLEASE WRITE THE LETTER, SEND THE FAX, OR MAKE THE CALL.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

HELP US SAVE PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING IN THE STATE BUDGET.