MEETING DATE: Thursday, January 26, 2012
AGENDA ITEM #: 9
ITEM: CORRESPONDENCE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

- None
November 28, 2011

The Honorable Edmond G. Brown Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Room 1173
Sacramento CA 95814

Subject: Please Preserve Library Funding

Dear Governor Brown,

On behalf of the Contra Costa County Library community, I am writing to request that the $15.2 million of library funding in the 2011-12 Budget be preserved if the "budget trigger" is implemented. These funds were already slashed by 50% from the 2010-11 funding level, and library use across the county is up. These funds help support:

- Literacy programs to teach adults how to read. Literate adults become employable and can contribute to California's economy.
- Resource sharing (books and other material) between libraries. Due to reduced funding, some libraries are now charging out-of-area residents a fee to borrow material. Resource sharing reduces a library's costs, as their customers can obtain the material they need from another library.
- Operating funds to help maintain open hours, providing a safe place for students to do homework when their school library is closed.

Governor Brown, over 1,000,000 California residents use their libraries each day; please do not deprive them of this vital resource. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lynn A. Meisch
Chair, Contra Costa County Library Commission
and Walnut Creek Library Commissioner

cc: The Honorable Darrell Steinberg, Senate President pro Tempore
The Honorable Bob Dutton, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable John A Perez, Speaker of the California State Assembly
The Honorable Connie Conway, Assembly Republican Leader
Senator Mark DeSaulnier
Senator Loni Hancock
Assemblywomen Susan Bonilla
Assemblywomen Joan Buchanan
Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner
Gayle B. Ulikema, Chair, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
David Twu, County Administrator
Contra Costa County Library Commission
Dec. 27, 2011

836 Marindal Rd
El Sobrante CA 94803

Dear County Commissioners
and Library Administrators
and Library Staff working,

Thank you so very much
for keeping our libraries
open between Christmas
and New Years! Your
foresight & thoughtful
planning is deeply appreciated.

Thank you,

Jamie McIntosh