CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 3

MEETING DATE: Thursday, March 27, 2014
AGENDA ITEM #: 9
ITEM: CORRESPONDENCE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

- None
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 4

MEETING DATE: Thursday, March 27, 2014

AGENDA ITEM #: 10

ITEM: REPORT FROM COUNTY LIBRARIAN

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
• None
MEETING DATE: Thursday, March 27, 2013
AGENDA ITEM #: 11 A
ITEM: STATE LIBRARY FUNDING ISSUES

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
The Commission will address the current State Library funding.
March 10, 2014
TO: CLA MEMBERS/ SYSTEMS/ NETWORK CONTACTS
FROM: Mike Dillon, CLA Lobbyist, Christina DiCaro, CLA Lobbyist
RE: News From the Capitol

PUBLIC LIBRARY BROADBAND PROPOSAL TO GO BEFORE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEES IN APRIL – LETTERS NEEDED

Governor Brown’s January Budget contains $22.25 million in proposed new, ongoing funding to connect all public libraries to a statewide, high-speed broadband network operated by the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC). The budget also proposes that an additional $1 million in one-time money be used for grants for those public libraries that may need assistance with the purchase of circuits or other hardware, etc. This funding and policy issue has been scheduled for hearing in the Budget Subcommittees on Education Finance next month at the State Capitol and we need your help.

The State Library budget is the purview of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee Number 2 on Education Finance and the Senate Budget Subcommittee Number 1 on Education Finance. These subcommittees have scheduled a discussion of the Governor’s public library broadband proposal for late April (April 23 and April 24 respectively). CLA, the State Library and CENIC worked tirelessly last year to educate the legislature and the Department of Finance about the need for this program. That advocacy effort led to the creation of the major State Library Broadband Needs Assessment that almost the entire library community participated in during the Fall. The Needs Assessment gave CLA critical data and validated the claims we had made at the Capitol regarding the overwhelming need for better broadband speed, capacity and connectivity for California public libraries.

Since the Governor has embraced this proposal as part of his January Budget, it is imperative that the library community demonstrate a strong show of support for the broadband plan when the issue is before the Budget subcommittees in April. Please take a moment today to use the sample letter that we have provided or feel free to customize it to fit your needs. Send your letter to each member listed below either by mail or by fax by Wednesday, April 16.

Read our fact sheet on the broadband plan for more information.

Budget Subcommittee Hearing Dates and Contact Information – State Library/CENIC Issue

Senate Budget Subcommittee Number 1 on Education Finance
Hearing Date: Thursday, April 24 – 8:30 a.m. or upon adjournment – Room 3191

| The Honorable Marty Block, Chair Senate Budget Subcommittee Number 1 on Education Finance State Capitol, Room 4090 Sacramento, CA. 95814 Fax: (916) 319-2183 |
| The Honorable Carol Liu, Member Senate Budget Subcommittee Number 1 on Education Finance State Capitol, Room 5097 Sacramento, CA. 95814 Fax: (916) 319-4629 |
| The Honorable Mark Wyland, Member Senate Budget Subcommittee Number 1 on Education Finance State Capitol, Room 4048 Sacramento, CA. 95814 Fax: (916) 319-4930 |

Assembly Budget Subcommittee Number 2 on Education Finance
Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 23 – 4 p.m. Room 128

| Assemblyman AD Muratsuchi, Chair Assembly Budget Subcommittee Number 2 on Education Finance State Capitol, Room 4117 Sacramento, CA. 95814 Fax: (916) 319-2183 |
| Assemblyman Rocky Chavez, Member Assembly Budget Subcommittee Number 2 on Education Finance State Capitol, Room 2170 Sacramento, CA. 95814 Fax: (916) 319-2176 |
| Assemblyman Matt DeBabine, Member Assembly Budget Subcommittee Number 2 on Education Finance State Capitol, Room 5144 Sacramento, CA. 95814 Fax: (916) 319-2145 |
| Assemblyman Brian Nestande, Member Assembly Budget Subcommittee Number 2 on Education Finance State Capitol, Room 4139 Sacramento, CA. 95814 Fax: (916) 319-2142 |
| Assemblyman Phil Ting, Member Assembly Budget Subcommittee Number 2 on Education Finance State Capitol, Room 3173 Sacramento, CA. 95814 Fax: (916) 319-2119 |
PUBLIC LIBRARY BROADBAND INITIATIVE

Bringing public libraries on to a statewide, high-speed, broadband "backbone"

Sponsors
The California Library Association (CLA), the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC), and the California State Library.

The Proposal
The Governor's newly released 2014-15 State Budget contains $2.25 million in new General Fund dollars for the purpose of bringing public libraries on to a 3,000 mile high speed, statewide broadband "backbone" operated by CENIC. (This amount would be built into the base as an ongoing appropriation in future budgets.) The State Budget further proposes that an additional $1 million in "one-time" funding be provided for the purpose of assisting some public libraries that will need hardware to help them connect to the CENIC "backbone."

This proposal is a "game changer" for public libraries and their patrons; and the small financial commitment from the state, represents an incredible "bang for the buck."

The History
As a result of CLA's significant advocacy efforts in the 2013 session, the State Budget bill (AB 110) contained language directing the State Library to conduct a Statewide Broadband Needs Assessment, which was completed in October 2013. 178 jurisdictions out of 183 (or 97 percent!) responded to the survey, and 883 branches out of 1115 (or 79 percent) responded. The assessment findings have overwhelmingly supported the case for CLA's broadband funding request.

Why choose CENIC as the backbone provider?
CENIC has been providing this same level of quality broadband service to the entire K-12, UC, CSU, community college community as well as some private colleges for years. If CENIC is the "gold standard" "backbone" provider for all of these educational entities, there is no doubt they should similarly be the provider for public libraries. CENIC will also provide public libraries with 3 seats on their board of directors.

As CENIC notes in a background paper on the subject: "By combining the buying power of California's 1100 libraries with that of K-12 education, significant one-time and ongoing cost savings can be realized to this end and higher capacity networking is available." CENIC's statement essentially means that public library dollars will stretch further, enabling jurisdictions and branches to buy bigger circuits for faster connections. For example, if public libraries previously budgeted $3,000 for a T-1 line, those same dollars could buy them 1 gigabit under this proposal.

How would this project improve library services?
The State Library Broadband Needs Assessment found that approximately 40% of California public libraries have connection speeds of between 1.5 and 20 Mbps (million bits per second), far less than what many Americans have in their homes.
Computer and WiFi usage at the public library is at an all-time high. When the San Mateo City Library opened in 1996, it had 10 public-use PCs - it now has 100 PC workstations. The San Bruno Public Library has seen a 100 percent increase in the use of e-books and audio books, just in the last year, from 2,000 downloads to 4,000 downloads.

80% of all California public libraries responding to the survey would have the infrastructure in place to be “on the backbone” immediately once state funding is provided. The other 20% would need some additional time or equipment in order to be connected.

Public libraries are the great equalizer and the go-to place for community, state, job, literacy, education and veteran services.

- People are flocking to the library in large numbers to research and fill out applications for the Affordable Care Act
- Many employers require job applications to be filled out online
- Skype can be an effective way to provide distance-learning adult literacy tutoring
- Bakersfield, Redding, and San Diego public libraries are providing special job search and online benefits search services for veterans
- The GED exam is going online in 2014. K-12 is bracing for the implementation of Common Core, which is also an online test. The library is an obvious place to practice for both of these important exams. The online tutoring program, “Online Homework Help” is one of the public libraries’ most popular educational tools.

Many of these services will be unavailable or painfully slow to acquire and utilize if the state does not assist public libraries in obtaining the high level broadband speed and connectivity that is currently provided to K-12 and higher education through CENIC.

The Governor’s $3.25 million proposal for broadband services for public libraries is in addition to the $4.7 million that is currently provided for the California Library Services Act and the state literacy program in the State Budget. The $3.25 million would also help the state meet its federal match, which brings in approximately $16 million in federal funding annually to the state.

Please tell your legislators about your current bandwidth and/or connectivity situation and ask them to support the Governor’s broadband proposal of $3.25 million in the 2014-15 State Budget for this purpose. Note: This issue will be heard in Assembly Budget Subcommittee Number 2 and Senate Budget Subcommittee Number 1 in the Spring.

Encourage your legislator to contact CLA Lobbyists, Mike Dillon and Christina DiCaro at (916) 448-2196, for more information.
March 3, 2014

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

Subject: Reinvestment in Public Libraries

Dear Governor Brown,

Thank you for including in your 2014-15 Budget, funding to assist California's public libraries to invest in high speed internet access at far lower cost than many presently pay.

However, with the state's economy strengthening; along with the resurgence of the state's tax revenue; it is time to start reinvesting in the state to support public libraries to at least the level it was in the 2010-11 budget during the Great Recession.

In 2010-11 the budget contained $30.4M for libraries as follows:

- Public Library Foundation (PLF) $12.9M
- California Library Services Act (CLSA) $12.9M
- Other – includes literacy programs $ 4.6M
- TOTAL $30.4M

Note: PLF provided supplemental operating funding to libraries. CLSA included Transactional Based Reimbursement (TBR) to help cover the cost of inter-jurisdictional library lending. Without this funding, some libraries have discontinued this program. With reduced funding, many libraries have discontinued their literacy programs which teach adults how to read.

The $30.4M investment compares with the 2014-15 investment level of $8.0M which includes the addition of $3.25M for high speed internet.

Increasing library reinvestment would strengthen California libraries which are so important to support the transformative power of education and the growth of our state's economy. On behalf of the Concord residents who make over 200,000 visits to the Concord library annually, please reinvest in our state's library in your May "Revise". Thank you.

Sincerely,

Larry Sly
Chairman of the Board

CC: Senator Mark DeSaulnier
Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla
February 24, 2014

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

Subject: Restore Public Library Funding

Dear Governor Brown:

Thank you for including funding in your 2014-15 budget to assist California’s public libraries in acquiring high speed Internet access at far less the cost than many presently pay. However, with the state’s economy growing stronger, along with the resurgence in the state’s tax revenue, it is time to restore funding from the state to support public libraries at the level of funding in the 2010-11 budget.

In 2010-11, the budget contained $30.4 million for libraries as follows:

- Public Library Foundation (PLF) $12.9M
- California Library Services Act (CLSA) $12.9M
- Other – includes literacy programs $ 4.6M

TOTAL $30.4M

PLF provided supplemental operating funding to libraries. CLSA included Transactional Based Reimbursement (TBR) to help cover the cost of inter-jurisdictional library lending. Without this funding, some libraries have discontinued this program. With reduced funding, many libraries have discontinued their literacy programs, which teach adults how to read.

The 2014-15 funding level at $8 million (which includes the addition of $3.25 million for high speed Internet) is a great reduction from the $30.4 million funding in 2011-12, and is not adequate to provide needed services to residents.

Increasing library funding would strengthen California libraries, which are so important to support the transformative power of education and the growth of our state’s economy. On behalf of the many thousands of Concord residents who visit the Concord library annually, please restore state library funding in your May budget “revise.”

Sincerely,

Timothy S. Grayson
Mayor

cc: Senator Mark DeSaulnier
Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla

City Council
Timothy S. Grayson, Mayor
Ronald E. Leone, Vice Mayor
Edi E. Biran
Daniel C. Helix
Laura M. Hoffmeister

Thomas J. Wentling, City Treasurer
Valerie J. Barone, City Manager
Alan B. Smith  
4823 Boxer Blvd.  
Concord CA 94521  

February 15, 2014  

Senator Carol Liu  
State Capitol Room 5097  
Sacramento CA 95814  

Subject: Restore Library Funding  

Dear Senator Liu,  

Carol, thank you for your long support of public libraries in California. In a meeting with Senator Mark DeSaulnier yesterday, he requested that I send to you the enclosed letter of December 19, 2013.  

With the resurgence of the state’s general fund, state funding for the Public Library Foundation and California Library Services Act should be restored to at least the funding level of 2010-11. The state at that time was facing shrinking funding and major budget deficits. Now is the time to restore those vital programs.  

The programs provided operational assistance; along with offsetting the costs of inter-jurisdictional library lending. Without this funding, some libraries no longer offer such lending, and some have stopped their literacy programs.  

Again thank you for your support, and I would be quite willing to appear at any hearing to explain the necessity for these programs.  

Best regards,  

Alan B. Smith  
alanbsmith@sbcglobal.net  
925.825.5575  

Cc:  
Senator Mark DeSaulnier  
1350 Treat Road, Suite 240  
Walnut Creek CA 94597
February 15, 2014

Senator Darrell Steinberg
State Capitol Room 205
Sacramento CA 95814

Subject: Support SCA7

Dear Senator Steinberg,

Thank you for support California's public libraries. You demonstrated your support by reading to children at a Sacramento library on March 15, 2012 along with former State Librarian Stacey Aldrich.

As the legislative program is developed for this year, we urge you to move SCA7 forward for adoption.

Libraries, like good schools should be able to pass ballot measures at the same 55% margin. Libraries are being used more than ever before. Our fellow Californians use them to prepare job resumes and seek help searching for jobs, using the public internet computers to obtain health insurance through Covered California, and to find the information they need to make informed decisions.

Again thank you for your support and we look forward to campaigning for SCA7 and the citizen's right to determine the future of their local libraries.

Sincerely,

Alan B. Smith
alanbsmith@abcglobal.net
925.825.5575

CC:
Senator Lois Wolk
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento CA 95814

Senator Mark DeSaulnier
1350 Treat Road, Suite 240
Walnut creek CA 94597
Alan B. Smith  
4823 Boxer Blvd.  
Concord CA 94521  

February 15, 2014  

Senator Darrell Steinberg  
State Capitol Room 205  
Sacramento CA 95814  

Subject: Support Proposed Library Construction Bond Proposition  

Dear Senator Steinberg,  

Thank you for supporting the funding for libraries contained in Governor Brown’s 2014-15 budget, which includes funds for high speed internet upgrades for public libraries.  

Now we are asking you to support the proposed library construction bond being carried by Senator Mark DeSaulnier. In California there have been two successful state library construction bonds which have helped build much needed new libraries.  

However, in many communities the demand for new libraries outstrips the local funds available. Not only is this demand caused by rapidly growing population (e.g. Brentwood and Oakley), but also because libraries are being used more than ever. Indeed, over one million Californians use libraries each day in our state.  

Thank you in advance for your support and we look forward to working with you and your team to advance this much needed library construction bond proposal.  

Sincerely,  

Alan B. Smith  
alanbsmith@sbcglobal.net  
925.825.5575  

CC:  
Senator Mark DeSaulnier  
1350 Treat Road, Suite 240  
Walnut Creek CA 94597