CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 3

MEETING DATE: Thursday, January 28, 2016
AGENDA ITEM #: 11A
ITEM: STATE/library FUNDING ISSUES

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Commissioners will address the State Library funding.
GOVERNOR BROWN RELEASES 2016-17 BUDGET: NEW MONEY FOR CALIFORNIA LIBRARY SERVICES ACT

This morning in a press conference at the State Capitol, Governor Jerry Brown released the 2016-17 State Budget, which includes a proposal to provide $4.8 million in new funding for the purpose of enhancing the California Library Services Act. This funding would be in addition to the $1.8 million that is currently appropriated for the CLSA.

The Governor plans to increase funding to various sections of the Budget including In Home Support Services for the developmentally disabled, $2 billion more for the state's Rainy Day Fund, K-12 school funding, and transportation. However, throughout his presentation, the Governor weaved words of caution about the continued potential volatility of future revenues. "Given the wide disparities that exist in our state and the millions who struggle in one form or another, understandably there will be proposals to fund a variety of worthwhile programs. But it would be short-sighted in the extreme to now embark upon a host of new spending only to see massive cuts when the next recession hits." In his presentation, the Governor referred to a series of large charts indicating the past "boom and bust" Budget cycles and added, "More permanent spending, combined with a recession would be devastating."

In light of his cautious approach to this year’s Budget, we are pleased to see that Governor Brown has identified $4.8 million in new funding for public libraries under the CLSA, as a sign of his support for their valuable services. Specifically the Budget notes:

"California State Library
California Library Services Act – An increase of $1.8 million General Fund ongoing and $3 million General Fund on a one-time basis for the California Library Services Act program. These funds will be used to strengthen statewide and regional services for public libraries.”

During the Fall, we met with the Governor’s Department of Finance to ask that they consider providing funding for public libraries in the Budget this year. When talk turned to the requested funding for the California Library Services Act, the Department of Finance wondered if there were ways to increase cooperation and collaboration among the systems using some "one time" funding (e.g. must be spent in fiscal year 2016-2017). The CLA Legislative Committee has been discussing this matter and will be addressing it again at their meeting on January 15 in Sacramento. The Department of Finance representatives will be in attendance at that meeting. Additionally, our office will be meeting with the Department of Finance tomorrow to be briefed on the Governor's Budget as it relates to this newly proposed funding. We will keep you informed as these discussions continue.

Lastly, there was no additional money provided for the state literacy program, but the current dollar amount of $4.8 million will continue under the Governor’s Budget. There was also no new money provided for broadband connections for public libraries, but the funding that allows public libraries to
participate as a member of CENIC will continue ($2.25 million). Last year, the legislature and the Governor provided $4 million for broadband connectivity grants.
PROPOSED 2016 STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Contra Costa County

January 12, 2016
122. SUPPORT legislation to amend California Water Code Section 85057.5 to bring the Delta Stewardship Council’s “covered actions” land-use review process into consistency with CEQA. This section of state code defines a “covered action,” which refers to local permit decisions that are subject to potential revocation by the Council, as adopted in the Council’s Delta Plan. The proposed process works as follows: (1) if a local permit application meets the definition of a “covered action,” the jurisdiction must evaluate it for consistency with all of the policies in the Council’s Delta Plan. (2) If the jurisdiction finds the project is consistent with the Delta Plan, they notify the Council of this finding. (3) Anyone who objects to the project may appeal the consistency finding, and it will be up to the Council to make the final decision. Should the Council decide against the local jurisdiction, there is no appeal process available to the jurisdiction or project applicant other than legal action.

“Covered actions” are defined in Section 85057.5 of the California Water Code. It defines them as plans, projects or programs as defined by CEQA, and then goes on to grant several exemptions to certain types of projects. It does not, however, provide exemptions for all the project types that CEQA itself exempts. CEQA provides a lengthy list of categorical exemptions for plans, projects and programs that generally do not have significant environmental impacts, and projects that have compelling reasons to move forward quickly (such as public safety projects). The entire list of categorical exemptions from CEQA also should be exempt from the Delta Stewardship Council’s “covered actions” process.

Library

123. SUPPORT State financial assistance in the operation of public libraries, including full funding of the Public Library Fund (PLF) and the Direct/Interlibrary Loan (Transaction Based Reimbursement) program.

124. SUPPORT State bonds for public library construction. The 2000 library construction bond provided funding for two libraries in Contra Costa County. There is currently a need of approximately $289,000,000 for public library construction, expansion and renovation in Contra Costa County.

125. SUPPORT continued funding for the California Library Literacy and English Acquisition Services Program, which provides matching funds for public library adult literacy programs that offer free, confidential, one-on-one basic literacy instruction to English-speaking adults who want to improve their reading, writing, and spelling skills.