CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION

AGENDA ATTACHMENT 3

MEETING DATE: Thursday, March 24, 2016
AGENDA ITEM #: 11A
ITEM: STATE LIBRARY FUNDING ISSUES

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Commissioners will address the State Library funding.
March XX, 2016

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

Subject: Literacy Investment Augmentation Needed

Dear Governor Brown:

Thank you for the additional funding for the California Library Services Act (CLSA). These funds help provide much needed support for public library programs and services.

Concomitantly, the funding for public library adult literacy programs needs a $2M augmentation in your May Revise of the 2016-17 Budget. This will allow many more adults can learn to read through public libraries. These are adults who are not served through standard adult education.

Presently, there are thousands of adults who are not learning to read through their public libraries due to inadequate funding. In Contra Costa County 258 adults learned to read in the last fiscal year, however, dozens remain on the waiting list.

An educated and literate society is essential to be able to effectively compete in the 21st century economy. This directly has a positive impact on the California economy.

Additionally remember that educated and literate citizens cause far less crime and pay more in taxes. As a result, a modest increase in this funding will increase the general fund as well as reducing costs to the criminal justice system and public assistance systems.

On behalf of all our residents who want to learn to read and increase their participation in our economy, please augment the literacy investment in the May Revise to your FY 2016-17 budget for the public library programs.

Thank you for assisting California’s public libraries to grow our economy.

Sincerely
Candace Anderson
Chair

CC
Senator Loni Hancock
Senator Lois Wolk
Assemblymember Catherine Baker
Assemblymember Susan Bonilla
Assemblymember Jim Frazier
Assemblymember Tony Thurmond

David Twa, County administrator
Jessica Hudson, County Librarian
Contra Costa County Library Commission