CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 2

MEETING DATE: Thursday, May 26, 2016
AGENDA ITEM #: 11A
ITEM: STATE LIBRARY FUNDING

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
No action recommended.
May 5, 2016

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

RE: Literacy Investment Augmentation – SUPPORT

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, I write to request a $2 million augmentation in funding for public library adult literacy programs. This will allow many more adults--who are not served through standard adult education--to learn to read through our public libraries.

Presently, there are thousands of adults who are not learning to read in our 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 effectively competing in the 21st century economy and directly impacts the California economy. 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 reduce costs to the criminal justice system and public assistance systems.

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

Sincerely,

CANDACE ANDERSEN
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Members, Board of Supervisors
Contra Costa County Legislative Delegation
David Twa, County Administrator
Jessica Hudson, County Librarian
Contra Costa County Library Commission
Cathy Christian, Nielsen Merksamer
May 5, 2016

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
The United State House of Representatives
327 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515-0511

RE: Preserving funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services - SUPPORT

Dear Congressman DeSaulnier:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I write to request your assistance in preserving funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in the budget and appropriations process.

IMLS funding includes the only federal grant program that is exclusively for libraries, supporting lifelong learning and innovative library programs throughout the nation. In the current fiscal year, the Contra Costa County Library received $105,000. In the past, the County has received a total of $193,000--$72,000 for a youth literacy program and $121,000 for a library at the juvenile hall.

Patronage of the Contra Costa County Library continues to grow each year with over 4 million visits last year. Services include providing homework assistance to students, helping with job searches and resume writing, and offering computer access for those who might otherwise lack what has become a basic need in today’s society.

With over 1.5 billion library visits a year nationally, it is essential that IMLS and its grant making capabilities be preserved in this year’s budget and appropriations process so that public libraries can continue to serve the public and innovate.
For these reasons, Contra Costa County urges your support in preserving funding for IMLS.

Sincerely,

CANDACE ANDERSEN  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Members, Board of Supervisors  
Contra Costa County Congressional Delegation  
David Twa, County Administrator  
Jessica Hudson, County Librarian  
Contra Costa County Library Commission  
Paul Schlesinger, Alcalde and Fay
May 9, 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 to 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 Concord, 42 adults learned to read in the last fiscal year.

An educated and literate society is essential to be able to effectively compete in the 21st century economy. This has a direct and 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 reduce costs to the criminal justice system and public assistance systems.
On behalf of all Californians 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,

Tania Brugger-Blanchard
Chairman of the Board

Cc: Senator Steve Glazer
    Assemblymember Susan Bonilla
    Jessica Hudson, County Librarian
    Contra Costa County Library Commission
May 3, 2016

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
The United States House of Representatives
327 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0511

Re: Preserve IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services)

Dear Representative DeSaulnier:

I write to request your assistance in preserving funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in the budget and appropriation process.

IMLS funding includes the only federal grant program that is exclusively for libraries, supporting lifelong learning and innovative library programs throughout the nation. This current fiscal year, the Contra Costa Library has received $105,000 while in the prior fiscal year it received nearly $120,000 in grants from IMLS. In the past, the County has received $72,000 for a youth literacy program and $121,000 for a library at a juvenile hall.

Patronage of the Contra Costa County Library continues to grow each year (over four million visits last year). Services include providing homework assistance to students, helping with job searches and resume' writing and offering computer access for those who might otherwise lack what has become a basic need in today’s society.

With over 1.5 billion library visits a year nationally, it is essential that IMLS and its grant making capabilities be preserved in this year’s budget and appropriations process so that public libraries can continue to serve the public and innovate. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark Mitchell, Mayor

cc Members Board of Supervisors
Contra Costa County Legislative Delegation
David Twa, County Administrator
Contra Costa County Library Commission
City of Pleasant Hill

April 18, 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 funding augmentation for the California Library Services Act (CLSA) included in the 2016-2017 State Budget. These funds help provide much needed support for local public library programs and services.

However, the funding for public library adult literacy programs needs to be augmented in the May Revise of the 2016-17 Budget by at least $2 million. This will allow many more adults to learn to read through public libraries. These are adults who are not served through standard adult education. In Pleasant Hill fifteen adults learned to read in the last fiscal year.

Presently, there are thousands of adults who are not learning to read through their public libraries due to inadequate funding. An educated and literate society is essential to be able to effectively compete in the 21st century economy and this directly has a positive impact on the California economy.

Additionally, 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 the City of Pleasant Hill, I am requesting that you augment the literacy investment in the May Revise to your FY 2016-17 budget for the public library programs so that all Californians who want to learn to read and increase their participation in our economy are able to do so.

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

Sincerely,

Susan A. Noack
Mayor

CC: Senator Lois Wolk
    Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla
    Jessica Hudson, County Librarian
    Contra Costa County Library Commission
RESOLUTION NO. 18-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PLEASANT HILL
APPROVING A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR ADULT
LITERACY PROGRAMS IN THE MAY REVISE OF THE 2016-17 STATE OF
CALIFORNIA BUDGET

WHEREAS, there are thousands of adults in California who are not learning to read
through their public libraries due to inadequate funding; and

WHEREAS, the funding for public library adult literacy programs needs to be augmented
in the May Revise of the 2016-17 Budget by at least $2 million;

WHEREAS, this additional funding would allow many more adults, who are not served
through standard adult education, to learn to read through public libraries;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Pleasant Hill
that the City does hereby approve and authorize the Mayor of Pleasant Hill to issue the letter
attached to this resolution in support of additional funding for library adult literacy programs in
the State of California Governor's May Revise to the 2016-17 State Budget.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Pleasant Hill at a regular meeting of the
Council held on the 18th day of April, 2016, by the following vote:

AYES: Carlson, Durant, Harris, Flaherty, Noack
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

SUSAN A. NOACK, Mayor

ATTEST:

CAROL W. WU, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM;

JANET E. COLESON, City Attorney
Loella Haskew, Mayor

May 5, 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.

A companion need is the funding for public library adult literacy programs. To address this critical need, your May Revise of the 2016-17 Budget needs a $2M augmentation. This boost will make it possible for many more adults to have an opportunity learn to read through public libraries.

In Walnut Creek, 31 adults who had no other option available to them learned to read during the last fiscal year. These adults are not served through standard adult education and this program offers a chance at literacy. Presently, there are thousands of similarly limited adults who cannot learn to read through their public libraries due to inadequate funding. With additional funding, our programs can be even more successful.

An educated and literate society is essential to effectively compete in the 21st century economy. California’s economy, with its worldwide scope, depends on a strong, educated population.

Additionally, 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 and public assistance systems.
On behalf of all Californians 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

Loella Haskew
Mayor

CC
Senator Steve Glazer
Assemblymember Catharine Baker
Jessica Hudson, County Librarian
Contra Costa County Library Commission