CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION

AGENDA ATTACHMENT 3

MEETING DATE: Thursday, March 23, 2017
AGENDA ITEM #: 12.B
ITEM: 2017 DAY IN THE DISTRICT

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

No action recommended.
Dear CLA Members,

It’s time for our annual Day in the District!

Although, let’s be honest, “day” is a little misleading – how about an ongoing call to action!

Why is meeting with legislators so important? While our legislative advocates represent CLA members at the State Capitol, local, grass roots, relational approach to advocacy is crucial. Building relationships with our local legislators is key to maintain and growing funding and support for library needs. When selecting your legislative team, try to include a Friends president, or Adult Literacy student, or some other enthusiastic library supporter in your meetings- never underestimate the power of the citizen advocate!

Please begin scheduling appointments with your Assembly Member(s) and Senator(s) with the goal of meeting them before the end of March. It doesn’t really matter which day you pick, pick one that works for you and your legislator.

Below are tools to help you. They can also be found on the CLA 2017 Day in the District webpage.

- **Find your Assembly Member or State Senator**; which will help you identify your local legislators.

- **Tips on how to Schedule a meeting and Lobby a Legislator** will give you pointers on how to go about scheduling meetings and then what to take and talk about during you meetings.

- **SCA 3-Dodd (library construction bonds – 55% vote approval) Fact Sheet**

This is also a unique opportunity for us to promote the foundational beliefs that guide libraries nationwide. Documents such as our Library Bill of Rights to the recently adopted Resolution on Access to Accurate Information show
how libraries play a vital role in providing information access and analysis during challenging times.

Once you have met with your Assembly Member(s) and Senator(s), simply email the CLA Legislative Committee letting us know whom you met with. In addition, please feel free to include any information about your meetings that you think is relevant.

Thank you and happy advocating!!

Jennifer Addington
Chair, CLA Legislative & Advocacy Committee

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Contra Costa County Letterhead

Federal Glover, Chair

March XX, 2017

The Honorable Edmund 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 continuing to support adult literacy programs in California's public libraries, and for recognizing their importance in work force development. These programs serve those who are not eligible for standard adult education.

In California each year, over 20,000 adults learn to read through such programs. In Contra Costa County over 250 adults learned to read through our adult literacy program - Project Second Chance program.

However, throughout the state many thousands remain on waiting lists due to inadequate funding. An augmentation of $2M in your May Revise” budget for FY 2017-18 would go a long way to ensuring that more Californians learn to read.

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 educated and literate residents 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 2017-18 budget for the public library adult literacy programs.

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

Sincerely
Federal Glover
Chair

CC
Senator Bill Dodd
Senator Steve Glazer
Senator Nancy Skinner
Assemblymember Catherine Baker
Assemblymember Tim Grayson
Assemblymember Jim Frazier
Assemblymember Tony Thurmond

David Twa, County Administrator
Melinda Cervantes, County Librarian
Contra Costa County Library Commission