CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION

AGENDA ATTACHMENT 5

MEETING DATE: Thursday, May 25, 2017
AGENDA ITEM #: 10.C.
ITEM: INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

No action is recommended.
April 4, 2017

The Honorable Mike Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
231 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gerald McNerney
U.S. House of Representatives
1210 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
U.S. House of Representatives
327 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eric Swalwell
U.S. House of Representatives
501 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Representatives DeSaulnier, McNerney, Swalwell, and Thompson:

On behalf of the Contra Costa County 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 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 County Library has applied for $16,000 while in the prior fiscal year it received $105,000 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 (over 3.5 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,

FEDERAL GLOVER
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Board of Supervisors
    David Twa, County Administrator
    Paul Schlesinger, Alcalde and Fay