CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 3

MEETING DATE: Thursday, March 21, 2019
AGENDA ITEM #: 7.A
ITEM: LEGISLATIVE WORKING COMMITTEE REPORT

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Commission members will be presented with copies of multiple letters written to local legislators requesting support for library-related issues.
March XX, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom.  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, Room 1173  
Sacramento CA 95814

Subject: Literacy Investment Support

Dear Governor Newsom,

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. Additionally, thank you for continuing the augmentation that was contained in the FY2018-19 budget. This augmentation is assisting California’s public libraries to serve many more adults.

In California each year, over 20,000 adults learn to read through such programs. In Contra Costa County, nearly 200 adults learned to read through our adult literacy program - Project Second Chance. As has been consistently demonstrated, literacy is critical to be eligible for 21st Century jobs, let alone those that pay at least a living wage and of course 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.

Thank you also to the senators and assembly members who represent Contra Costa County for their long term support of these programs. We look forward to working with you throughout the budget process to ensure its passage.

Again on behalf of all residents of the County, and especially those who want to learn to read, thank you for this continued augmentation which will help California’s public libraries to continue to grow the economy.

Sincerely
John Gioia Chair

CC
Senator Bill Dodd
Senator Steve Glazer
Senator Nancy Skinner
Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
Assemblymember Tim Grayson
Assemblymember Jim Frazier
Assemblymember Buffy Wicks

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