

# Agenda Report

**TO:** City Council

May 1, 2006

**THROUGH:** Legislative Committee

**FROM:** City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Support for: Proposition 81 – “California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2006”

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council support Proposition 81 “California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2006”.

## BACKGROUND

The Bond Act of 2006, which goes before voters this June, would authorize the state to sell \$600 million in general obligation bonds to fund grants to local agencies for the construction, renovation, and/or expansion of local library facilities. Local agencies that receive grants would be required to pay 35 percent of the project cost with local funds.

Proposition 81 builds on the successes of two earlier state measures which funded library construction projects. In 1988, voters approved Proposition 85, which authorized \$75 million in general obligation bonds to fund grants to local agencies for building, expanding, or renovating library buildings. In 2000, Proposition 14 was approved by voters and provided an additional \$350 million in bond funds for library projects. Both grant programs required local matching funds of 35 percent of project cost.

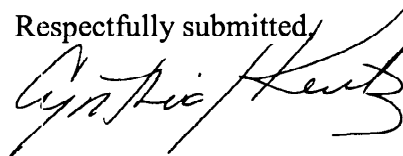
Proposition 14 funded 45 projects, many of which are in progress. Eligible applications were submitted for an additional 60 projects which were not funded. Proposition 81 would grant first priority to the eligible applications that were submitted but not funded under Proposition 14. No more than \$300 million of the new funding would be reserved for these applications. The remaining bond funds would be available for new applications. In addition, the measure would reserve \$25 million for “joint use” projects serving both a library and a public education institution.

Proposition 81 uses state bond money to support communities with renovating or building libraries, leaving more local funds available to support children's programs, create homework centers, enhance collections, improve services to seniors, businesses, and people with disabilities, and increase literacy efforts. While Pasadena would not directly benefit from Proposition 81, it would bring much needed support to communities without a local library or with building facilities that are in disrepair.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This recommendation has no fiscal impact on City Funds.

Respectfully submitted,



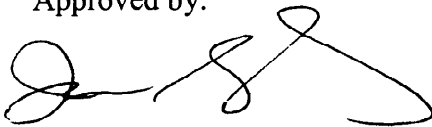
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City Manager

Prepared by:



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