

# Agenda Report

**TO:** City Council

February 14, 2000

**FROM:** City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Support for Proposition 14 the Statewide Bond for Literacy and Libraries

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Support Proposition 14 the Statewide Bond for Literacy and Libraries slated for the March 7, 2000 ballot, which provides \$350 million in bond money for building new libraries, repairing existing facilities, upgrading telecommunications and electrical systems, improving study conditions, and creating a safe, comfortable environment for library users.
2. Authorize the Mayor to send letters to the appropriate authorities stating Pasadena's position.
3. Authorize City Council and staff to speak at public forums and meetings representing the City's position and to sign support literature and authorize mailing of support literature.

## **BACKGROUND**

In 1998, the State Library surveyed public libraries to determine construction and renovation needs. The survey identified 425 needed projects at a cost of approximately \$2 billion. This prompted the introduction of Senate Bill 3, by Senators Rainey, Burton and Alpert which passed both houses of the State Legislature and was signed by the Governor as the California Reading and Literacy Improvement And Public Library Construction And Renovation Bond Act of 2000. The City Council approved support of Senate Bill 3 on September 21, 1999. This measure will appear as Proposition 14 on the March 7, 2000 ballot.

Proposition 14 includes the following provisions:

1. Authorizes libraries to apply for state grants of between \$50,000 and \$20,000,000 for the construction, remodeling or repair of library facilities.
2. Establishes first priority funding for joint-use projects where there is a cooperative agreement between libraries and schools.
3. Provides up to 65% State in state bond funding for approved projects, with a required 35% local match.

MEETING OF 02/14/00

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.B.(5)

Proposition 14 can be used for the following purposes:

1. Site Acquisition
2. New building construction
3. Remodeling/renovating existing public library facilities, or converting other facilities to public libraries
4. Upgrading telecommunications and electrical systems to accommodate technology
5. Purchasing of furniture and equipment

Both the Library Commission and the Friends of the Library have endorsed the proposition. The Friends of the Library are spearheading a campaign to promote the measure by setting up informational tables at the Central and branch libraries. Fact sheets will be available for the public at information kiosks in each Pasadena Library.

### **POTENTIAL PROJECTS**

The following priority projects have been identified for implementation using Proposition 14 funds:

**Project:** Branch Libraries Repairs and Rehabilitation

**Estimated Cost:** \$750,000 - \$1,000,000

**Description:** This project would seek funding to replace worn carpet and floor coverings, window treatments, furniture and equipment for each branch facility. This project also provides for meeting room enhancements including equipping the meeting room with audiovisual and computer demonstration equipment. Potential projects may include refurbishing branch libraries to accommodate computer and homework centers or to expand designated branch libraries to support expanded community use. Also included is an upgrade to the branch telecommunications infrastructure to support computer technology.

**Project:** La Pintoresca Library Computer Lab

**Estimated Cost:** \$97,000

**Description:** Funds will be used to establish a computer lab at the La Pintoresca Branch. The lab will house ten multimedia computers equipped with educational software for various age groups from preschool through junior high. The lab will be available for public use during branch service hours and may also be used as a resource for public training after library service hours by both the Library and community groups. The proposed computer lab will be an additional resource to help children and teenagers complete their homework.

**Project:** Santa Catalina, Hill Avenue and Linda Vista Branch Restroom Improvements

**Estimated Cost:** \$150,000

**Project Description:** Currently the public restrooms at these branch libraries are located outside of the Library posing a safety and security risk for library patrons, especially for the many children who use these facilities. The problem can be rectified by remodeling the facilities to provide interior access to the restrooms at the Hill Avenue & Linda Vista Branch Libraries and for new restrooms at the Santa Catalina Branch Library.

**Project:**Central Library Building Improvements: East Wing Elevator Installation

**Estimated Cost:** \$150,000

**Description:** The remodeling and installation of a public elevator in the eastern portion of the building would significantly improve access to the lower level of the Central Library. This would make this highly used public space accessible to physically disabled patrons and meet a priority goal for Americans with Disabilities Act modifications to the Central Library.

**Project:** Central Library Building Improvements:Young Adult Learning Center

**Estimated Cost:** \$75,000

**Description:** This project would entail the remodeling and converting of a current non-public space into a young adult reading and study center. The study center would accommodate a book and magazine collection geared to young adults as well as computer workstations and group study work space.

**Project:** Allendale Branch Library Expansion and Remodeling

**Estimated Cost:** \$1.5 million

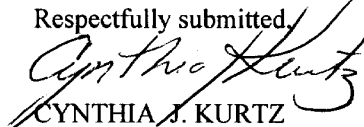
**Description:** This project would entail expanding and remodeling the Allendale Branch library which would serve as a joint use facility for public and private schools in the area, specifically to meet library needs of Blair High School and Allendale Elementary School. The expansion would provide for a computer training lab as well as an expanded children's area, young adult study areas and additional public meeting room space for cultural and community events. The remodeling and expansion project would also upgrade the building's technology infrastructure to accommodate the necessary computer technology and audio visual requirements.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**


A city, county, city and county, or district may apply to the State Librarian for a grant pursuant to this act. Grants may be requested for any amount between \$50,000 and \$20,000,000. A 35% local match will be required. Grants will be awarded based on needs of urban and rural areas; population growth; age and condition of the existing library facility; the degree to which the existing library facility is inadequate in meeting the needs of the residents in the library service area; and, the degree to which the library's plan of service integrates appropriate electronic technologies into the proposed project.

Approval by the voters would provide a total of up to \$350 million for improving California's public libraries. The exact amount of funding that Pasadena could receive has not yet been determined; however, the Pasadena Public Library has identified potential projects particularly related to the remodeling or expansion of existing branch facilities.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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