



July 22, 2021

Dear Measure X Community Advisory Board:

As a councilmember of the City of El Cerrito, I to urge you recommend allocating an appropriate proportion of Measure X funds to provide for additional Page 5 of 7 county-paid library hours. This request is consistent with four of the stated purposes of Measure X:

- Support crucial safety-net services
- Invest in early childhood services
- Protect vulnerable populations
- Fund other essential services

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed clearly to all the digital divide between rich and poor and the increasing important of internet access. This is one of the reasons that, even amid a significant city fiscal crisis, our council voted 4-1 to provide funding for additional library hours so that those without other means to access the interest could still do so.

Of course, our libraries also provide other important services such as promoting reading skills in young children and providing literacy education to adults. The libraries are a valuable resource of information about the pandemic. And libraries provide an important respite to those experiencing homelessness both from life on the street and the increasing ill effects of climate change.

The current system of minimal library hours provided by the county with the burden to provide adequate library hours falling on the cities results in those cities with higher household income often being able to afford this cost while other cities cannot. This is not equitable and is the very thing Measure X was designed to help alleviate.

The City of El Cerrito has recently written you requesting that you also recommend funding for the Community Crisis Initiative. I understand that you will be providing recommendations for funding several items and our request on library hours is not meant to be in opposition to the Community Crisis Initiative.

City of El Cerrito
Re: Measure X and Library Funding
Page 2 of 2

I urge you as the Measure X Community Advisory Board to support both the Community Crisis Initiative and increased county funded library hours. These items are just what Measure X was intended to support, especially since all members of our county and all communities will benefit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tessa Rudnick', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Tessa Rudnick
Councilmember, City of El Cerrito

CC: El Cerrito Council Members, Michael Alan Fischer, Supervisor John Gioia,
Contra Costa County Librarian