

County Library

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Contra Costa County

Alison McKee
County Librarian



Monday, December 6, 2021

Dear Chair Burgis,

It has recently come to my attention that there is Measure X funding for this fiscal year that remains uncommitted. I am writing to request that the Board of Supervisors considers allocating a portion of these funds to the Library for the following items:

- \$200,000 for ongoing annual funding to staff the Library's new early literacy outreach program. The Bella Vista Foundation recently granted the Library \$150,000 to purchase a van whose purpose will be to provide mobile, early literacy services to the following low-income communities: Antioch, Bay Point, Bethel Island, Byron, Concord, El Sobrante, Knightsen, Monument Corridor in Concord, North Richmond, Oakley, Pinole, Pittsburg, Rodeo and San Pablo.
- \$8.1 million in one-time funds to address long overdue deferred maintenance issues in the following county-owned library facilities: Antioch, Kensington, Pinole, Rodeo, Ygnacio Valley. These facilities have significant deferred maintenance as a result of the Library needing to choose between funding extremely expensive facility repairs and upgrades or funding library services and open hours. The Library has always chosen to prioritize services and open hours with its very limited funding. One-time Measure X funding of approximately \$8.1 million will address urgent facility repairs, enable these libraries to act as cooling and warming centers, and upgrade the basic infrastructure so that there is an increased capacity to support modern technology.

I appreciate your consideration of these items and will be very happy to answer any questions the Board of Supervisors may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alison McKee".

Alison McKee
County Librarian