Action – Approve letter in support of a bill introduced in the California State Senate. SCA 3 by Senator Bill Dodd seeks to lower the local vote threshold for library construction bonds from the current two-thirds vote to 55%.

Text of letter from LAC Chairperson on behalf of the LAC:

February 27, 2017

Dear Honorable ___________,

The Oakland Public Library Advisory Commission of the City of Oakland supports SCA 3. The measure seeks to lower the local vote threshold for library construction bonds from the current two-thirds vote to 55%.

The Oakland Public Library (OPL) provides services to the community from facilities distributed throughout the City of Oakland, including the Main Library, 16 branches, the African American Museum and Library and the Tool Lending Library. In the past year alone, OPL has organized job fairs for youth and adults, computer training sessions, health & wellness programs, local author talks, science and arts activities, and a very popular forum on discussing race and racism with children. The community of Oakland looks to OPL as a resource not only for lending materials, but in tackling real-world issues: signing up for health care, applying for jobs, navigating social services, accessing legal services, preparing tax returns, and – for children and teens – supplying snacks and meals.

The need for investment in OPL’s facilities was documented in its Master Facilities Plan, 2006, and $423 million in unfunded requests for the Library department was documented in the City of Oakland’s 2015-20 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). OPL will benefit from passage of a City of Oakland infrastructure bond, Measure KK passed in November 2016, however the $15 million intended for libraries is a small fraction of the needs identified.

OPL provides vital services to our community and funding to support improvements to our facilities are necessary. SCA 3 will give our local community the tools and authority to decide if they would like to levy a library bond for new construction, renovation, or expansion by a 55% vote.

Letters will be sent to each of the following:

Senate Governance and Finance Committee – Hearing: March 29, 2017

The Honorable Mike McGuire, Chair (D-Healdsburg)
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA. 95814
Fax: (916) 651-4902

Note: Co-author of SCA 3
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, Vice Chair  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 3048  
Sacramento, CA. 95814  
Fax: (916) 651-4934

The Honorable Jim Beall  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 2082  
Sacramento, CA. 95814  
Fax: (916) 651-4915

The Honorable Ed Hernandez  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 2080  
Sacramento, CA. 95814  
Fax: (916) 651-4922

The Honorable Bob Hertzberg  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4038  
Sacramento, CA. 95814  
Fax: (916) 651-4918

The Honorable Ricardo Lara  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA. 95814  
Fax: (916) 651-4933

The Honorable John Moorlach  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 2048  
Sacramento, CA. 95814  
Fax: (916) 651-4937

**And SCA 3 author:**

The Honorable Bill Dodd  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5064  
Sacramento, CA. 95814  
Fax: (916) 651-4903