

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 6**

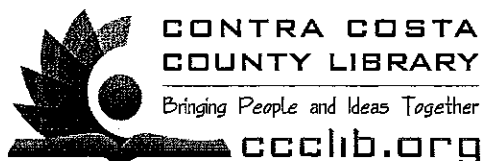
MEETING DATE: Thursday, January 22, 2009

AGENDA ITEM #: 12 B

ITEM: CLA LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE DAY IN THE DISTRICT

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Commissioners will sign up to attend the scheduled meetings.



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Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-4497

Phone: 925/646-6423
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To: Library Commissioners
Library Friends and Foundation Presidents
Previous Legislative Day Attendees

Date: January 9, 2009

From: Anne Cain, County Librarian

SUBJECT: Day in the District – January 30 & February 6, 2009

The California Library Association has planned the 2009 Legislative Day in the District, which provides us with an opportunity to meet locally with our legislators. These meetings are in addition to the annual Legislative Day in Sacramento that will be held on April 15, 2009.

The following appointments have been set up for **Friday, February 6, 2009**:

1:30 P.M. Senator Mark DeSaulnier: District Office is in transition. Meeting location to be determined (925) 602-6593

Senator DeSaulnier's 7th District includes: Antioch, Alamo, Bay Point, Byron, Brentwood, Clayton, Concord, Crockett, Danville, Diablo, Discovery Bay, Bethel Island, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Kensington, Knightsen, Hercules, Lafayette, Martinez, Moraga, Oakley, Orinda, Pacheco, Pinole, Pittsburg, Pleasant Hill, Port Costa, Rodeo, San Ramon, and Walnut Creek.

3 P.M. Assemblymember Joan Buchanan: District Office is in transition. Meeting location to be determined somewhere in San Ramon (925) 606-4990

Assemblymember Buchanan's 15th District includes: Walnut Creek, San Ramon, Bethel Island, Byron, Diablo, Discovery Bay, Knightsen, Danville, Alamo, Oakley, and Brentwood.

4:30 P.M. Assemblymember Tom Torlakson:** District Office: 815 Estudillo Street, Martinez (925) 372-7990

Assemblymember DeSaulnier's 11th District includes: Antioch, Bay Point, Bayview-Montalvin, Clayton, Clyde, Concord, Crockett, El Sobrante, Hercules, Martinez, Mountain View, Pacheco, Pinole, Pittsburg, Port Costa, Rodeo, Tara Hills and Vine Hill.

** Please note that this meeting will be with the Assemblymember's District Director, **Craig Cheslog**.

A time/day has not been confirmed for the following legislators, but let us know if you plan to attend if an appointment is made:

Assemblymember Nancy Skinner: District Office: 712 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito (510) 559-1406
Assemblymember Skinner's 14th District includes: El Cerrito, El Sobrante (part), Kensington, Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, Pleasant Hill, Richmond, and San Pablo and parts of Martinez, and Walnut Creek.

Senator Loni Hancock: District Office: 1515 Clay St #2202, Oakland (510) 286-1333
Senator Hancock's 9th District includes: Richmond (part) and San Pablo.

cc: Library Managers

Library Legislative Day


Save the Date!

We hope you'll join us next year for Library Legislative Day on **April 15, 2009!**



Helpful Information

- Take a virtual tour of the State Capitol
- Parking in Sacramento
- Directions to Sacramento

 Where to Eat in Sacramento (93k)

Demystifying Grassroots Lobbying

Just the idea of talking with legislators can be intimidating. Long-time activist **Nancy Amidei** takes the confusion and fear out of grassroots lobbying. Last year, Nancy came to the state capital to share her experiences and secrets. If you missed it, we are providing the podcast, produced by InfoPeople.

- Listen to Podcast

You can download an MP3 file to any MP3 player, or listen to it directly on your computer using not only iTunes, but also Windows Media Player, WinAmp, Real Player, or any other application that can play MP3 files.

Nancy Amidei is on the faculty of the University of Washington School of Social Work, where she also directs the Civic Engagement Project. A joint effort of OMB Watch and the UW School of Social Work, CEP works with non-profit organizations throughout the country. CEP offers advocacy training, speeches, workshops, and resource materials, for work at federal, state, or local levels. A writer, teacher, and advocate, Nancy has been involved in social policy from both inside and outside government. She is a former Director of the Food Research and Action Center (a national anti-hunger group). She also served in the Carter Administration as a Deputy Assistant Secretary in the federal department of Health, Education, and Welfare (now DHHS), and in the early 70's she was on the Staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs.



Governor Presents Scaled-back "State of the State" Address in Light of State Budget Problems

01/15/2009

Governor cautions, "California...faces insolvency within weeks."

At 10:15 this morning, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger presented his 2009-2010 "State of the State" address to the California State Legislature, in a joint session in the Assembly Chambers. The address lasted only ten minutes - an abbreviated version of the typical one-hour long address the Governor usually offers to the legislature. The Governor explained his brevity by stating, "I will not give the traditional State of the State address today, because the reality is that our state is incapacitated until we resolve the budget crisis. The truth is that California is in a state of emergency." The Governor later added, "It does not make sense to talk about education, infrastructure, water, health care reform and all these things when we have this huge budget deficit. I will talk about my vision for all of those things and more as soon as we get the budget done...When a budget agreement is reached, when some of the raw emotions have passed, I will send to the legislature the package of legislative goals and proposals that a Governor traditionally sends."

The Governor's State of the State comes on the heels of the release, on December 31, 2008, of his 2009-10 State Budget proposal. In a typical year, the Governor will give his State of the State address some time between January 10 and January 15, to be followed by the release of his annual Budget proposal. However, this is no "typical year," and as you have been reading in the paper or watching on t.v., the negotiations between legislative leaders and the Governor - known as the "Big 5," have been largely unproductive, until recently. When the Governor released his proposal on December 31, he projected a deficit in the current year of \$14.8 billion, which, if unaddressed, will grow to almost \$41.8 billion by the end of the 2010 fiscal year. The Governor has expressed great frustration that, despite the fact that he has called several sequential "special sessions" of the legislature, to encourage their quick action, the negotiations between Democrats and Republicans have reached an unprecedented level of intransigence. In the last two weeks, there appears to be some movement with the negotiations. However, due to the sensitive nature of the discussions, and in an attempt to prevent outside forces from impacting the discussions, the "Big 5" has been relatively silent with regard to the specifics of the issues currently on the table. It is rumored that the "Big 5" is considering almost \$18 billion in cuts, and are going "line by line" through the Budget to achieve savings. As the Governor cautions in his State of the State address: "We are in our third special session and we've declared a fiscal emergency - and every day that goes by, makes the budget problem that much harder to solve. As a result of all of this, California, the eighth largest economy in the world, faces insolvency within weeks."

As you recall from our December 31 alert to the field, the Governor's proposed solutions include many of his earlier proposals as well as provisions put forth by Democrats on December 19th during the Special Session. Expenditure reductions account for about 42% of the proposed \$41.8 billion in solutions, followed by new revenues of 34%, "securitizing the State Lottery" to generate \$5 billion, or approximately 12%, and another \$5 billion or 12% through borrowing. Almost \$4.7 billion of the borrowed funds would be through selling Reimbursement Warrants (commonly known as "RAWs") in the new Budget year, beginning July 1. The Governor has not suggested any cuts to library programs such as the Public Library Foundation, Transaction Based Reimbursement, or literacy program, etc.

The Director of the Department of Finance, Mike Genest, at a luncheon briefing for lobbyists this week, noted that the Administration has identified February 1 as the day that an agreement must be reached. If that deadline is missed by the "Big 5," and a solution is not in place, Director Genest says they will have "no alternative but to shut down" billions of dollars of public works projects in the state, as the state will simply run out of cash and be unable to sell bonds.

"ON THE EDGE OF FISCAL DISASTER"

Last week, Mac Taylor, the state's new Legislative Analyst, held a press conference, releasing an LAO preliminary analysis of the Governor's proposed Budget. Similar to comments he made in mid-December, Taylor stated that "The Legislature must act immediately to address the budgetary and cash situation that has the state on the edge of

fiscal disaster." While he applauded many of the provisions in the Governor's plan, the Analyst also raised a number of issues such as the risky borrowing of almost \$5 billion in revenue anticipation warrants (RAW's). While legally these RAW's can be used for cash flow purposes, they may not be legal when used as a Budget balancing tool, pursuant to Proposition 58 passed by the voters in 2004. Finally, Taylor suggested that if the Legislature agreed with the Governor's proposal for "securitizing" the Lottery, as well as seeking authority to use funds from previously enacted Proposition 10 (Local First 5 Commissions) and Proposition 63 (mental health costs), for General Fund purposes, on the June ballot, urgency dictates a special election in April would be preferable. Additionally, obtaining public acceptance to use RAW's for budgetary purposes could also be placed on the ballot.

LAO AGAIN URGES IMMEDIATE ACTION

Yesterday afternoon, the Legislative Analyst's Office released a report on "California's Cash Flow Crisis," which again, urges the legislature and the Governor to immediately begin addressing the cash flow and Budget crisis, as the state is expected to run out of cash in February. The report primarily focuses on information that has already been reported, and ironically notes that California is "believed to be ineligible for bankruptcy protection." Absent corrective action, when the state runs short of funds, the Analyst notes that the state Controller does have the ability to delay payments with a lower legal priority. However, it also notes that deciding which payments would be low-priority "is murky," because the state has never experienced this extreme cash flow situation before.

The clearest statements about which obligations are believed to be priority payments, according to the Analyst, are those listed in the state Revenue Anticipation Notes (RAN's) offering documents, which list the state priority payments as: Payments to schools and higher education, as provided in the Constitution, principle and interest payments on the state's General Obligation Bonds, repayments from the General Fund to Special and other Funds for internal cash flow borrowing, payments to state employees, state Medi-Cal claims, and payments on Lease-Revenue Bonds.

Finally, the Analyst does recommend approving at least some of the payment deferrals proposed by the Governor, on a one-time basis. These include deferring \$2.7 billion of payments to schools from July and August 2009, to October 2009, in addition to the \$2.8 billion "shift" in school funding to July, funding which the school districts are expecting to receive this February. Other deferrals include \$1.8 billion of various social services payments to counties, until September 2009, transfers of \$700 million of gas tax revenues to counties and cities for local street and road projects, and \$400 million of payments for regional centers from July and August 2009 to September 2009. Lastly, the Analyst noted that in the event of prolonged inaction, the state Controller will be forced to issue IOU's beginning in February, which could significantly delay the personal income tax refunds to millions of Californians, which in turn will add a "drag" on an already struggling economy.

Submitted by Mike Dillon and Christina DiCaro, CLA Lobbyists