



BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Board of Library Trustees

June 9, 2008

To: City of Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates & City Council Members

From: Donna Corbeil, Director of Library Services
Terry Powell, Board of Library Trustees

Subject: Neighborhood Libraries Bond Measure for Seismic, ADA & Space Improvements

The Berkeley Public Library's Board of Library Trustees voted unanimously on Wednesday, May 14, 2008, to request that the Berkeley City Council place a measure on the November 2008 ballot for the Library. This measure, authorizing a \$26 Million bond, would fund seismic, ADA and space improvements at the four neighborhood branches of the Berkeley Public Library. For your consideration attached is a brief summary of each branch's status and improvements.

The Board took this action after six months of discussion, community surveys, community meetings at each branch, and a consultant study for a Library neighborhood branches Facility Master Plan. The study, by Noll & Tam Architects, provided an evaluation of current conditions at each branch, which, as indicated in an earlier report to Council, strongly alerted us to the needs of basic physical facility improvements, in structural, mechanical, electrical, telecommunications and ADA-compliant systems at the branches. These neighborhood facilities were built many years ago and have not been renovated or improved since the early 1970s. The draft report from the consultant also identified system improvements and space renovations, increases, or replacements to provide functional and energy efficient space for existing and future Library services and programs.

We strongly urge you to support the placement of a Neighborhood Library bond measure for seismic, ADA, and space improvements on the November 2008 ballot. This bond measure would cost the average \$330,500-assessed-value homeowner \$33 per year, or approximately \$16.50 per property tax payment. It would improve a vital communitywide resource, our neighborhood libraries, to offers safe, accessible, free and available materials and services to our community.

Please support the placement of this measure on the November 2008 ballot to improve our four neighborhood libraries.