

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY
COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO.
PROPOSITION 81

WHEREAS, a new State library bond measure, the “California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2006”, known as Proposition 81, is on the June 2006 ballot; and

WHEREAS, approval of Proposition 81 would authorize the State of California to sell \$600 million in bonds to assist local governments in the construction and renovation of public libraries; and

WHEREAS, approved projects will combine state matching funds representing 65% of total project costs, with 35% in locally generated funds, resulting in nearly \$900 million being spent in local communities; and

WHEREAS, eligible projects that were not funded in the last round of a previous State library construction bond (Proposition 14), including the San Francisco Public Library’s applications (totaling \$9.5 million) to supplement the funding for new, larger Visitacion Valley and Ortega branch libraries will be given first priority for funding if Proposition 81 passes; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Public Library’s largest building campaign in history is in full swing as we are now seeing the fruits of the \$105.9 million City bond measure passed in November 2000 that calls for 19 branches to be renovated, four leased facilities to be replaced with City-owned buildings and one brand-new branch to be constructed - the first in 40 years - in Mission Bay; and

WHEREAS, over the last few years there has been a dramatic increase in the cost of construction attributed to rising energy, cement, and steel costs, increased international demand for materials, escalating labor costs, the weak US dollar, and many other factors; and

WHEREAS, without additional funding sources, this unprecedented rise in construction costs could impact the Branch Library Improvement Program and reduce the scope of upcoming projects; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Proposition 81 creates an opportunity to gain additional funds from the State to increase the Branch Library Improvement Program budget; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Library Commission urges the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco to consider whether to endorse Proposition 81 on the June 6th, 2006 election ballot.

As approved April 20, 2006

Michael Housh, Commission Secretary