

Commissioner, City of Berkeley Transportation and Zoning Advisory Board

s/Karl J. Reeh

Individually and on behalf of, President, Le Conte Neighborhood Association

s/Sharon Eige

Individually and on behalf of, President, North East Berkeley Association Board (NEBA)

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE FF

Save Our Branch Libraries!

We appreciate the generosity of the Berkeley taxpayers whose property assessments fund the Library's operation, protecting its public service from General Fund decreases. These operating funds DO NOT PAY FOR MAJOR PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS OF BUILDINGS.

Important neighborhood library upgrades should be done with Berkeley voters' review and approval.

The community relies on our neighborhood libraries even more during stressful economic times. Libraries are community anchors and provide a level playing field for persons of all socioeconomic backgrounds.

Library use continues to increase, with **more than 800,000 visits and more than 700,000 items checked-out annually**. Our neighborhood branches need a substantial investment and safe facilities to continue to serve our community.

The Library budget has been well spent, keeping its commitment to voters, with the Central Library open seven days a week and the branches open six days a week.

The Board of Library Trustees (BOLT) is a publicly functioning body, appointed by the City Council. The Council sets the Library's annual tax increases, approves its budget, and holds it accountable to Berkeley's residents. Measure FF requires BOLT to report annually to the City Council on the use of the bond proceeds.

No capital funds (needed for building repairs) are available to public libraries from the State or Federal government.

Help save and restore our neighborhood branch libraries by voting YES on Measure FF!

s/Amy Roth

President, Friends of the Berkeley Public Library

s/Betty Olds

Council Member, Berkeley City Council, District 6

s/Kriss Worthington

Berkeley City Council

s/Pat Cody

Co-Founder, Cody's Books

s/Winston Burton

Berkeley Public Library Foundation, Board Member;
BOSS Economic Development Director