

April 15, 2010

Carol Manashil, Co-Chair
San Rafael Library Services Committee in Support of Measure C
PO Box 150445
San Rafael, CA 94915

Dear Carol:

Your San Rafael Chamber Endorses Measure C

The San Rafael Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that we are adding our voice and our support to a broad chorus of community organizations, leaders, and residents endorsing passage of Measure C in June.

Measure C will institute a dedicated funding source to augment City general fund support for the San Rafael Public Library, by assessing a special \$49 parcel tax.

A strong public library is an important economic and educational engine for our City, and for all its businesses and residents. It provides for lifelong learning, equal access to information resources, basic literacy and language skills, and access to digital resources. The Library serves as an anchor for our downtown, welcoming an average 1,000 visitors each day. A strong public library bolsters property values and helps create an inviting community for prospective residents and businesses alike.

The recent economic downturn has been hard on many sectors of our community, and the public sector does not escape. Services such as the public library can often, incorrectly, be seen as non-essential, and therefore subject to disproportionate budget cuts. The Library has recently seen reductions in staffing, materials, and open hours over the past six years. It's time to reverse that trend, to re-invest in this vital and foundational public institution.

The San Rafael Chamber of Commerce urges the local community to vote yes on Measure C, and to help work towards its passage.

Regards,



Rick Wells
President and CEO