

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 23, 2004

CONTACT: Sarah Dalton
California State Library
916/654-1483

A Landmark Day for Libraries: State Librarian Praises Governor Schwarzenegger on Library Bond Bill

SACRAMENTO — State Librarian Susan Hildreth today applauded Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for signing the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2006, SB 1161, a bill authored by Senator Dede Alpert and sponsored by the California Library Association (CLA).

SB 1161, which the Governor signed yesterday, authorizes \$600 million of state general obligation bond funds to construct and improve public library facilities if voters approve the bond bill on the March 2006 ballot.

Hildreth said, “By signing this landmark bill, Governor Schwarzenegger is demonstrating not only his support of California libraries, but also his knowledge of the crucial role libraries play in California’s communities.” Hildreth lauded Senator Alpert saying, “The libraries and the people of California are fortunate to have as strong and visionary an advocate as Senator Dede Alpert.”

Hildreth congratulated CLA members and all California library advocates on their success in promoting this bill. “This kind of bi-partisan support demonstrates to the residents and elected officials of California the popularity and vitality of our public libraries” Hildreth said.

If approved by the voters in March 2006, SB1161’s \$600 million will continue the highly successful library construction bond acts of 1988 (\$75 million) and 2000 (\$350 million). Like the previous two bond acts, SB1161 requires a 35% local match.

###