



April 12, 2022

The Honorable Jackie Speier, MC  
House of Representatives  
2465 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: SUPPORT: City of San Mateo CFP Request – Marina Library Restoration & Renovation**

Dear Representative Speier:

What is more important than literacy and education? On behalf of the San Mateo City Council and our more than 105,000 residents, we endorse and strongly support the City of San Mateo's CFP Request for \$1,500,000 to renovate and rehabilitate the Marina Library.

The Marina Library has serious structural damage due shifting of its foundation, likely caused by seismic activity. This \$5,000,000 project will "shore up" the foundation and keep this 50-year-old library from *literally falling into the water*. In January 2018, the City was advised that without structural reinforcement, the building would most likely need to be razed within a few years.

The Marina Library is located on the east side of San Mateo. There are no other San Mateo Public Library locations on this side of the city, as both the Hillsdale Branch and the Main Library are west of El Camino Real. The neighborhoods in this area have historically been less affluent than those on the western side of the city, with residents who are more racially diverse and of the working class. The Marina Library serves over 45,000 people annually, including over 3,500 school-age children.

Serving a largely working-class community, the branch is very close to LEAD Elementary School, Parkside Elementary School, and Bayside Middle School, and serves these students and their families. There are higher percentages of students who qualify for reduced lunch and English language learners at the LEAD Elementary School, which is in the Shoreview neighborhood. Students from all three of these schools make regular visits to the library as part of field trips, to work on class projects, or as a place to study and hang out.

For all the aforementioned reasons, the San Mateo City Council supports the City of San Mateo's CFP request for \$1,500,000 to renovate and rehabilitate the Marina Library.

Sincerely,

Rick Bonilla, Mayor