CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 2

MEETING DATE: Thursday, July 26, 2018
AGENDA ITEM #: 7.B.
ITEM: PROJECT EQUITABLE ACCESS

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Vote whether to send before the Board of Supervisors.
The Library ensures easy, equitable access to library services for all Contra Costa County residents.

**EQUITY/EQUITABLE**
- **Definition:** The quality of being fair and impartial
- **Synonyms:** justness, impartiality, egalitarianism; objectivity, balance

**ACCESS**
- **Definition:** The means to approach or enter, the right or opportunity to use or benefit from something
- **Synonyms:** entry, approach, connection, in, open door, open arms
Some important questions to consider

- What does it mean to deliver equitable access to library services?
- What barriers do we face?
- What barriers have we constructed?

Current thinking about equity in public libraries

- Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) initiative, *Advancing Racial Equity in Public Libraries* identifies library fines as a form of "structural racism." Negative consequences include being blocked from library and computer use, or being reported to a collections agency.
- Supporting Parents in Early Literacy through Libraries (SPELL) research reveals that library fines and fees are barriers preventing low-income families from using public libraries.
- ULC – Statement on race and social equity
  - "Committed to achieving racial and social equity by contributing to a more just society in which all community members can realize their full potential."
Recommendation

- Possible action: recommendation to the Board of Supervisors supporting staff’s proposal to ensure easy, equitable access to library services for all Contra Costa County residents
- Consequences of taking no action: 21,000 youth accounts and 116,740 total accounts remain blocked

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?