CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION

AGENDA ATTACHMENT 1

MEETING DATE: Thursday, January 17, 2019
AGENDA ITEM #: 3.
ITEM: PUBLIC COMMENT

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Commission members will be presented with a communication from a patron and the County Library’s response.
emailmessage: This message was submitted to the Library Commission.

subject: Commission mail, Library closures due to unhealthy air quality

to: ccclibcommission@ccclib.org

comments: Library Commission members,

Why are the Contra Costa County Libraries closed due to unhealthy air quality? Libraries are typically places where people can find refuge from emergency situations. Please help me to understand why the libraries are closed.

Sincerely,
Sherry Hartman

Name: Sherry Hartman
emailaddress: hrtmns4@pacbell.net
spambegone: Library
phone: 9252867675

v1.1
Dear Ms. Hartman
Thank you for your inquiry regarding library closures. I can honestly say that I have never closed an entire library system in my 35+ years as a library director. This was not an easy decision and while an inconvenience for library patrons, I believe an abundance of caution when it comes to the health of the public and library staffs was necessary.

The decision to close all libraries is primarily due to the "Very Unhealthy" air quality rating by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. None of the 26 libraries in the Contra Costa County Library system has HEPA filters on the HVACs, nor do most have the ability to recirculate only interior air. As a result, external air was being pulled into our library buildings and both patrons and staff were exhibiting symptoms of illness. Had we not closed the libraries, library employees would have been exposed to 4-8 hours of continuous poor air quality and members of the public might be encouraged to leave homes or other shelters to travel to the library.

During these few days of inconvenience, I hope you were able to take advantage of the online resources offered by the Library. Crossing fingers that air quality improves soon.

Thank you for your interest in the Contra Costa County Library.

Melinda S. Cervantes
COUNTY LIBRARIAN • CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY
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|925.608.7701| Follow us on facebook | twitter

-----Original Message-----
From: hrtmns4@pacbell.net [mailto:hrtmns4@pacbell.net]
Sent: Saturday, November 17, 2018 10:17 AM
To: Library Commission <ccclibcommission@ccclib.org>
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