

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LIBRARY REOPENS FOR GRAB AND GO CURBSIDE PICKUP Service Begins Thursday, June 11, 2020

Monterey, CA – The Monterey Public Library is reopening beginning Thursday, June 11, 2020 exclusively for grab and go curbside pickup of Library materials. Hours to start will be Tuesdays through Saturdays 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Customers will receive a notice that their hold is ready for pickup. They must bring their library card, wear a face mask, and practice social distancing. The community currently has over 2,000 items on hold for pick up.

The Library and Bookmobile have been closed since mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic Shelter in Place order. Under direction from the Governor and the State and County Public Health Officials, we are currently in Stage 2.5 of four stages in terms of reopening businesses and public facilities. Libraries were recently given permission by the Order to reopen only for curbside pick-up, and with safety protocols in place.

"The opening of our Library shines as a beacon for the return to normalcy," said City Manager Hans Uslar. "California's First Library will be the first to open in the County since the pandemic forced their closures."

"We have been working since day one to develop reopening safety measures, including quarantining and sanitizing materials prior to being put back in circulation," said Library and Museums Director Inga Waite. "We are ready to greet the public in a mask and at a six foot distance, and we are happy the public is ready too."

The Library facility remains closed. Most Library staff are still temporarily laid off. Many of the library's services are available online, including the Summer Reading Program for all ages, Thursday morning Music & Rhymes with MaryLee, and downloadable audiobooks.

For more information, visit <u>www.monterey.org/library</u>.