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DEAR LIBRARY CUSTOMER,

Welcome back to the Library!

The Library needs your support now more than ever before. Due to Covid-19 our funding has been drastically reduced. Please consider joining our non-profit partner the Monterey Public Library Friends & Foundation, or make a donation at www.mplfriends.com. The Friends & Foundation helps fund new materials, programs, and services that will keep your library a vibrant place to learn and grow. Read on to learn more.

The Monterey Public Library is proud to be California's first public library, serving the Monterey community since 1849. With over 29,000 cardholders (more than the number of residents), 300,000 visitors, and 462,000 check-outs per year, your Library is a regional hub for gatherings and community programs; scholarly, local and popular materials; and enrichment for all.

Historically, the Monterey Public Library has been supported by \$3 million each year from the City of Monterey's General Fund. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic's impact on hotel tax, sales tax, and other revenue, the City is projecting a deficit of \$31 million over the next two years.

Despite these economic challenges, the City will continue to support the Library's core mission with services such as curbside pickup. However, the City cannot currently afford to fund the Library at the same level that it has provided in the past. Without the help of customers and private partners, library hours, new materials, and programs will remain drastically reduced.

We know that the Covid-19 pandemic has affected many library customers' finances. We will always be here as a free service to the community.

Thank you for continuing to be a valued library customer.



Inga Waite

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