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# Libraries to be closed Mondays

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The doors will soon be closed Mondays at most libraries in the Santa Cruz County system, following a decision made last night by the Library Oversight Committee in Santa Cruz.

Starting July 1, all 10 branches will be closed Mondays except for La Selva Beach library, which is only open three days a week now.

"Everyone is upset," Anne Turner, director of Santa Cruz County Libraries, said. "The public is upset and it's very painful for library workers."

Last month, the Library Over-

sight Committee recommended a budget to the Santa Cruz City Council and Board of Supervisors that included \$179,000 in cuts from the system's \$3.8 million budget. The committee, which is composed of two county supervisors, two Santa Cruz city council members, and one member of the public, decided to reduce library hours. But it wasn't decided until last night's meeting which hours would be cut.

"We opted to reduce the open hours of every branch in the system rather close one or two branches," said Turner. "Our priority was to be open as many

nights and as many Saturdays as possible because that gives families who work time to go to the library."

Branches that are now open six days a week, including Santa Cruz's Central and Branciforte branches and the Aptos branch, will be open from Tuesday to Saturday. The Boulder Creek, Freedom, Live Oak and Felton branches will go down to four days a week.

What is critical about the cuts is that circulation was up 10 percent last year over 1990-91, reaching about 1.3 million, said Turner. And it's expected to rise about 5 per-

cent more this year.

"We're busier than ever," she said. "In hard times the use of public libraries goes up. We are cutting back when people need us more than ever."

The library system has also been affected by cuts in school libraries in the San Lorenzo Valley and Pajaro Valley Unified school districts.

"Who do you think is meeting the library needs of kids?" Turner asked. "It's the public library. There are not enough staff to handle it."

Along with a reduction in hours,  
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the system will lose 5.5 staff positions.

"Nobody is going to be laid off," said Turner. "We are very lucky because of vacancies and early retirements."

The cuts will be made at the clerk and branch manager level.

In light of Governor Wilson's recent proposal to shift \$2.6 billion in property taxes from cities and counties to schools, Turner said the worst is yet to come.

"Until there is a state budget, we don't know what the county budget will be," she said.

The library system receives 65 percent of its funding from the county and 35 percent from the city of Santa Cruz.

"California needs to restructure the way we fund local services," Turner said. "We're still recovering from Prop 13."

At last night's meeting, members discussed the possibility of forming a citizens' task force that would meet in September. One issue the task force would examine is a proposal to include on the Library Oversight Committee more citizens as well as representatives from the Scotts Valley and Capitola city councils.