



### **NEWS RELEASE January 18, 2010**

#### **Public Library, Youth Center Close Early Due to Storm-Caused Power Outage**

The Santa Maria Public Library and Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center will close early today at 5:00 p.m. since both facilities lost electrical power from widespread power outages that occurred today. Until dusk, patrons and staff made do with natural light, and also with emergency lighting in the library. The youth center normally closes at 8:30 p.m. and the library at 9 p.m.

During the day, the library staff checked out materials by hand and paper instead of computers. The Recreation and Parks Department's administrative office was without power so staff accepted paper forms and date-stamped them. The landfill offices were without power for about three hours.

The City was able to provide most services. City Hall switched to backup power and stayed open all day for customers. Public Works crews ensured an ample supply of free sand at three locations: Suey Crossing Road, the Public Works yard at 830 E. Cypress, and on West Carmen Lane, just west of Depot Street.

The City received about 15 calls concerning downed tree branches, including one report of a branch that caused minor damage to a vehicle.

"This storm was only the first of several powerful storms expected this week, so we ask all residents to take precautions now to protect their families, pets and properties," Management Analyst Mark van de Kamp said. "We can expect more winds and potential power outages, and a significant amount of rain."

Questions may be directed to the City Manager's Office, 925-0951 ext. 372.

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