

City Librarian Report to Board of Trustees
17 September 2024



Personnel Updates: Circulation Dept is currently looking for new Library Assistants

Easton Update: Recently Cal-OSHA changed worker-related indoor work in hi-temp heat regulations – to remain compliant Easton Branch will now close when the internal temp reaches 81 degrees vs formerly 83 degrees.

General Updates:

- **Policies:** AB 1825 and Collection Development Policy – Report from CLA lobbyist:
“FREEDOM TO READ” BILL SENT TO GOVERNOR’S DESK

One bill of great interest to the California Library Association – AB 1825-Muratsuchi, pertaining to the “Freedom to Read” - passed the Senate and Assembly during the final days of Session and is on the Governor’s desk.

What is AB 1825-Muratsuchi?

AB 1825, called the “Freedom to Read Act” was introduced early in the 2024 Session by Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance), the Chair of the Assembly Education Committee. The bill would require public libraries that receive direct funding from the state, to adopt and maintain a written and publicly accessible collection development policy and submit that policy to the State Library for review by January 1, 2026. Additionally, the bill states that policies:

- *Should “create a process for community members to share their concerns regarding library materials and to request that library materials be reconsidered for inclusion in the library’s collection.*
- *Guide the selection and deselection of library materials.*
- *Acknowledge that the public library’s collection meets the broad and diverse interests of the community and respects both the library’s autonomy and their specific community needs.*
- *Establish that the public library serves as a center for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas.*
- *Acknowledge that library materials should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people and should present diverse points of view in the*

collection as a whole.

- *Acknowledge the right of the public to receive access to a range of social, political, aesthetic, moral, and other ideas and experiences.”*

The measure states all of the principles by which library materials shall not be excluded from a collection, such as race, nationality, gender identity, etc. The bill also protects librarians, library media specialists, and other employees from termination for refusing to remove an item from the collection before it has been reviewed. Finally, AB 1825 notes that the governing board (e.g. a city council or county board of supervisors) may not “proscribe or prohibit the circulation or procurement of, or access to, any library materials in the public library because of the topic addressed by the materials or because of the views, ideas, or opinions contained in those materials.”

Main-Facilities Update:

- EV Charger Project with PG&E Update: the project is currently scheduled to begin Monday Sept 23rd.
- Lane Room Update – City Librarian met with KJR Design for conceptual drawings.

PLS/PLP (*Peninsula Library System / Pacific Library Partnership*)

- Peninsula Library System app is now available on Apple Store
- [Upcoming Library EVENTS](#)
- [State Library News Desk](#)