



CITY OF SALINAS

LIBRARY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

DEPARTMENT: LIBRARY & COMMUNITY SERVICES

FROM: KRISTAN LUNDQUIST, DIRECTOR

TITLE: UPDATED COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive report. No action required.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In September 2024, the State of California passed the California Freedom to Read Act (AB 1825). As part of this legislation, every public library in the State of California that directly receives any state funding is required to establish, adopt, and maintain a written and publicly accessible collection development policy, that includes criteria set by the State Library, by January 1, 2026. The current collection development policy used by the Salinas Public Library does not meet this criteria; therefore, staff have updated the policy, as required, to meet the requirements of the legislation.

BACKGROUND:

The current collection development policy for the Salinas Public Library was endorsed by the Library and Community Services Commission on September 11, 2019. For the past six years, this policy has provided clear guidance to staff regarding the selection and removal of materials and maintenance of the library's varied collections. It has also informed the community regarding how the library collection is determined, providing an avenue for residents to express any concerns with the collection.

Since this policy was endorsed by the Library and Community Services Commission, sentiment towards public libraries, and the access to varied materials that they provide, has become a topic of nation-wide discussion and debate. While the Salinas Public Library has avoided significant challenges from our residents regarding the materials accessible through our library, other public libraries across the State have received significant pushback from individuals, both of their community and not. This has resulted in challenges for public libraries to uphold their ability to offer materials that cover diverse viewpoints, and challenges for staff members who pride

themselves on constructing and maintaining a collection that has value for all community members.

In address of this, the State of California passed the California Freedom to Read Act (AB 1825) in September 2024 with the purpose of enshrining the fundamental right of Californians to access a diverse range of library materials, free from censorship or discriminatory restrictions. The Act also reinforces public libraries as democratic forums committed to intellectual freedom, diversity of ideas, and open access, while building in protections for both community members and library staff.

As part of this legislation, each public library jurisdiction in California that receives state funding must establish, adopt, and maintain a written, publicly accessible collection development policy that meets the requirements established in the legislation. In consultation with the State Library, it was determined that the current collection development policy employed by the City of Salinas does not meet those requirements. The State Library produced a California Freedom to Read Act Process and Checklist document that was used to assist staff in updating the policy.

In response, library staff have updated the collection development policy to meet the requirements by the State set deadline of January 1, 2026. While updating the policy, staff also took the opportunity to make edits that resulted in aspects of the original collection development policy being more clearly outlined, as well as introduce language that highlights our non-traditional collection, such as loanable laptops, and how we distribute the collection among our service points. Staff have received confirmation from the State Library that the new collection development policy, as attached, meets all requirements of AB 1825.

Staff plan to implement this policy upon receiving final approval from the State Library, which is anticipated to be provided in late-September or early-October. Upon implementation, the new policy will be shared with the public on our website, where it will remain accessible for viewing (also a legislative requirement).

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

Not a Project. The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378).

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

This action supports the City Council goals of:

- Public Safety
- Youth and Seniors
- City Services

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

N/A

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Fund	Appropriation	Appropriation Name	Total Appropriation	Amount for recommendation	FY 24-25 Operating Budget Page	Last Budget Action (Date, Resolution)*
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

ATTACHMENTS:

Collection Development Policy (Current)

Collection Development Policy (New)

California Freedom to Read Act Process and Checklist