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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MONTEREY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTS BRIAN EDWARDS
AS NEW LIBRARY & MUSEUMS DIRECTOR**



Monterey, CA - The Monterey Library Board of Trustees has appointed Brian Edwards as the new Library Director, replacing Inga Waite as she retires. Starting August 16th, Edwards will plan and direct the operations and activities of Monterey Public Library, California's first public library. Working with the City Manager's Office, he will also oversee Monterey's Museums and Cultural Arts Division including the programs and services at four historic sites – Colton Hall Museum and Old Jail, Pacific Biological Laboratories, Cannery Row Workers Shacks, the Presidio of Monterey Museum - as well as the Alvarado Art Gallery at the Monterey Conference Center. He joins Monterey as a member of the City's Executive Team.

Edwards currently serves as the Library Division Director at the Alameda County Library, overseeing library services and 52 full-time equivalent staff in the four public libraries in Fremont, CA. Among his many duties at the Alameda County Library, Mr. Edwards has worked on facility renovation projects, implemented a new automated material handling system, worked with the Library Advisory Commission, coordinated with the Library Foundation and Friends of the Library on fundraising and strategic growth, and served as part of Library Central Leadership in Alameda County on county-wide policy, staffing, partnerships and budget issues. Starting at an entry level position for the Alameda County Library 22 years ago, Edwards worked his way up to Division Director for the Fremont Libraries in 2018. He holds a Master's degree in Library Science, a Masters of Public Administration in Management and Policy Analysis, and a BA in Studio Art, Pictorial Arts.

"Brian's combination of library management experience, passion for museum administration, and value in community connection and tradition truly made him an ideal candidate to move the Monterey Public Library into the future," noted Jennifer Fellguth, Chair of the Monterey Public Library Board of Trustees.

Edwards strongly believes libraries should be an inclusive community hub. "Milestones in my life led me here. I still remember the sense of wonder I felt as a toddler when my mom practiced her stories and songs with me before heading to her role with the library. As Monterey's new Library & Museums Director, I am committed to ensuring an MPL where everyone is welcome and belongs; while providing facilities that honor the past and look to the future. Libraries provide the community with the avenues to learn on their own terms – books, eMaterial, engaging programs, historical research, and valuable museum experiences," says Brian. Mr. Edwards will be earning \$186,984 annually.

In congruence with MPL's mission, one of Edwards' first and top priorities is building community connection. During his first 30 days, Brian plans to meet with the Library Board of Trustees, Library & Museums and City Staff, Museums & Cultural Arts Commissioners, Friends and Foundation Board members and volunteers. MPL will also be hosting a series of meet and greet community events to get to know Brian both in person and online. The first community meeting is scheduled for:

Saturday, September 10th
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Monterey Public Library
625 Pacific Street, Monterey CA

Learn more about the Monterey Public Library at monterey.org/library.

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