

# Escondido Library Watchdog

[www.EscondidoLibraryWatchdog.org](http://www.EscondidoLibraryWatchdog.org)

October 21, 2019

Escondido Library Board of Trustees  
City of Escondido  
Via Email

**RE: Transmittal of Notices of Concern 1 -3 and request for response.**

Dear President and Library Board of Trustees,

We announced the release of our website last month. Today, we would like to file the first Notices of Concern for your review and consideration.

We request a response on or before the next Board of Trustee meeting on November 14, 2019. We will report your responses to our membership. We can be reached at [escondidolibrarywatchdog@gmail.com](mailto:escondidolibrarywatchdog@gmail.com).

Thank you,

The Escondido Watchdog Team

cc. Joanna Axelrod. City of Escondido

Attch: Three notices of Community concern

# Escondido Library Watchdog

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## Notice of Community Concern #1

**Date Submitted:** October 10, 2019

**Submitted by:** Rebecca Nutile

**Response Requested:** The Escondido Library Watchdog received the following concern from the public and requests the Escondido Library Board of Trustees to address this issue with LS&S and resolve it so that the 3-D printer is usable by the public. Please let us know what actions the Trustees will take to address this issue at a public meeting of the Trustees.

***While every nearby library offers 3D printer services, Escondido's is for Display Only***

Like most kids, my nine-year-old son loves to build and create. He builds small robots, spends hours with Lego, and folds paper into amazing origami shapes. So when we visited the Escondido Library to sign up for the summer reading program, he was thrilled to see a 3D printer prominently displayed in the lobby. Its parts moved back and forth, slowly creating the new object I assumed had been designed by a library user. A prominent sign displayed on the front read "Do Not Touch."

Turns out the public doesn't actually get to **use** the printer; they only get to watch it. According to staff, the public has NEVER gotten to use this printer which was/is touted as part of the *New Technology* LS&S would bring to our library. As of August 2019, LS&S has run the Escondido Library for over a year and a half, and STILL, patrons cannot use the 3D printer. However, that pesky fact hasn't stopped LS&S from taking credit for the "new technology" they've brought to our community.

Meanwhile, if anyone is interested in actually using one, here are about 35 area libraries that allow the public to **use** 3D printers and most offer classes to teach you how to do it.

**All 33 Branches of the County of San Diego Library.** Branches closest to Escondido are San Marcos, Vista, 4S Ranch).

**City of Oceanside Library**

**City of San Diego Library**

**Questionable Claim in "operational review"**

When I contacted the staff, I was told they are hoping to have the 3D printer up and running "some time in September. But we're not sure." Remember, even if the printer is accessible by September 2019, it would be a full year and nine months after the library was privatized and LS&S took over operations.

*From LS&S's Operational Review's list of highlights: **Introduced new patron technology, including 3D printing and virtual reality***

The fact that 3D printing hasn't actually been offered to the public in any substantive way is an example of why it is important to verify every claim this private, for-profit company makes. It is the responsibility of the Library's Board of Directors and ultimately the Escondido City Council to confirm every claim and made by LS&S. I sincerely hope they are not simply accepting the self-reporting of LS&S.

**Final Note:** My family continues to use the Escondido Library less and less in favor of the County branches. We often cannot find the materials we're seeking at the Escondido Library, and the events LS&S offers simply do not appeal to my kids as much as those at the nearby County branches. I have heard the same complaints from others and often run into families from Escondido at the County branches.

**Response from Trustees or LS&S:**

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## Notice of Community Concern #2

**Date Submitted:** October 10, 2019

**Response Requested:** The Pulitzer Prize is one of the highest awards in writing and these winning books should be available on our shelves of the library. Unfortunately, there are very few Pulitzer Prize award winning books on the shelves. Here is a list of the fiction winners that, at a minimum, should be included in the library collection. <https://bookmarks.reviews/every-pulitzer-prize-for-fiction-winner-of-the-21st-century/>

**Solution Proposed:** Purchase full collection of Pulitzer Prize award winners and make available to the public.

**Response from Trustees/LS&S:**

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## Notice of Community Concern #3

**Date Submitted:** October 12, 2019

**Response Requested:**

The Escondido library USED to offer English literacy classes for English learners. It was an invaluable service for our immigrant population. I am a certified ESL teacher and have offered to set up/ reestablish a program on a voluntary basis. I submitted my resume in June and spoke to the administrative assistant, who assured me I would hear from them, but they never got back to me. I suspect it was stored in the infamous circular file!

**Solution Proposed:**

I would like to hear that someone at the library is ready to contact me through the Watchdog and let's get this program implemented! I have been tutoring at the San Marcos branch of the San Diego County Library under their literacy program for the last 3 months and have seen first-hand how beneficial it is to our learners.

**Response from Trustees/LS&S:**