Measure FF Update

January 2014

All Branch Libraries Are Open after a Successful Bond Program!

West Branch
The branch opened on December 14, 2013.

The new 9,300 square foot Zero Net Energy facility was designed by the firm of Harley Ellis Devereaux for a total cost of $7.5 million. The branch design minimizes the use of energy and rooftop solar panels will make enough energy to replenish the energy used.

The facility offers spacious reading rooms with high ceilings and plentiful natural light; more public access computers; expanded comfortable seating and tables and a study room for small group use. Also, there is improved program space for the Berkeley READS adult and family literacy program, including dedicated space for client services and a training/computer lab.

South Branch & Tool Lending Library
The branch opened on May 11, 2013.

Designed by Field Paoli Architects, the entirely new 8,700 square foot facility cost $6.5 million. LEED Gold certification is anticipated, and highlighted features include energy efficient lighting and water systems, rooftop solar panels, operable windows and radiant heating in the floors.

Garden features include the use of native plantings, mulching and a diverse plant palette to support the habitat for local species.

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Claremont Branch

The branch opened on May 5, 2012.

LEED Silver certification was awarded in September 2012. Environmentally friendly features highlighted include improved energy efficiency and better performance of mechanical systems, the use of low-emitting materials and finishes, building material reuse and reduction of hardscape.

The branch’s landscaping has been certified Bay Friendly and a Bay Friendly Landscaping sign for the branch has been installed in the planting area on the exterior of the library. Garden features include the use of native plantings, mulching and a diverse plant palette to support the habitat for local species.

North Branch

The branch opened on April 7, 2012.

The North Branch Library project was awarded the 2013 AIA-SF Merit Award for Historic Preservation.

In May 2013 the North Branch Library renovation and expansion project was given a Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA) award for excellence in historical preservation.

LEED Silver certification was awarded to the branch on April 9, 2013. Points were received for energy efficiency, water use reduction, dedicated space to collect and store recyclables, reuse of materials and use of daylight in the design.

On March 28, 2013 the North Branch renovation was honored as one of nine recipients of the Berkeley Design Advocates, Biennial Awards for Design Excellence. The award is meant to highlight the best in Berkeley architectural efforts during this period and encourage excellence. The branch library was one among four public projects receiving the award, the others all being UCB buildings.

In November 2012 the branch was awarded Bay Friendly Landscape certification. Signs have been placed prominently around the exterior of the building, highlighting features including the use of mulch, large stature trees that catch storm water and improve habitat, and the use of bioswales to clean stormwater before it flows into the bay.