

California Commission on Disability Access

The right to full and equal access

Although individuals with disabilities have the legal right to full and equal access to public facilities, that access continues to be denied in many instances. The new California Commission on Disability Access (CCDA) will develop recommendations to enable persons with disabilities to exercise their right to full and equal access to public facilities, and promote business compliance with the laws and regulations to avoid unnecessary litigation.

An independent commission, the CCDA is comprised of 17-members that include eleven (11) public members, and six (6) ex officio nonvoting members. Commissioners include those appointed by the Governor, Senate, and Assembly. The Attorney General and the State Architect or their respective designees also serve on the commission. These appointments were made in accordance with Government Code section 8299.01.

The first CCDA meeting took place at the state capitol October 19, 2009. An interim chairperson and vice-chairperson were elected. The commissioners addressed key business matters, and established five (5) ad hoc committees to focus on the CCDA's key needs, tasks and responsibilities.

In accordance with Senate Bill 1608¹ the legislature authorized the CCDA to conduct studies, provide reports to the legislature within specific timelines, and secure assistance from other departments, divisions, boards, bureaus, commissions, or other agencies of the state to achieve the goals enacted in the legislation.

The new Government Code provisions provide a number of means by which the CCDA is to address the complexities associated with compliance to and enforcement of disabled access laws and regulations. Initial funding, in the amount of \$80,000.00, was allocated as of May 1, 2009 as "seed money" to begin operations of the CCDA. In addition to state funding the CCDA is permitted by statute to accept federal funding by Congress or executive order, and

¹ Chapter 549, Statutes of 2008 http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/sen/sb_1601-1650/sb_1608_bill_20080928_chaptered.pdf

may accept any gift, donation, grant, or bequest for any purpose supported by Government Code Chapter 3.7. For a complete overview of the CCDA's mission, authority and responsibilities review the provisions of Senate Bill 1608.

Stay up-to-date with the CCDA via the CBSC Web site:

www.bsc.ca.gov/CCDA.