Overview
In 2003, Senate Bill 262, Chapter 872, Statutes of 2003 authorized “the State Architect to establish and publicize a program for state certification of access specialists.” In December 2003 DSA staff began development of the Certified Access Specialist (CASp) Program.

This report updates current activities of the Division of the State Architect (DSA) for implementing the California Certified Access Specialist (CASp) Program. It notes accomplishments and significant events that have occurred since the previous report of October 2005.

DSA project staff is currently concentrating on (1) finalizing the certification examination (test development and administration logistics); (2) preparations for rulemaking of the regulations for the CASp Program; and (3) when rulemaking concludes, proceed with launch of program operations scheduled for the Fall of 2006.

Fiscal Analysis
Fiscal analysis for the CASp program has been completed, and projected cash flow indicates program viability, based on a conservative number of certification candidates.

Certification Criteria
In March 2004, DSA hosted the first of five productive meetings of the Implementation Advisory Committee for the CASp program. Collaboration with program development staff concluded in December 2004. Resulting recommendations of criteria for certification of access specialists were forwarded to the State Architect and subsequently approved (see Appendix A & B).

Project Management
DSA staff is following a comprehensive schedule for program development focused on two major accomplishments: (1) certification examination (both test development and test administration); and (2) regulatory law for the CASp Program.

Examination Development
DSA retained a consultant in early 2005 to ensure that the certification examination is developed in accordance with rigorous educational testing and accreditation standards. A key milestone was achieved in June 2005 with the completion of the test specification. This document prescribes the content of the certification examination in terms of the proportions of test questions in specific subject areas.

Independent Training Resources
DSA staff architects assigned to the CASp program have extensive experience in accessibility training and have been working collaboratively with the new DSA Academy to provide: Access Plan Review, Project Inspection for Accessibility, Project Scoping, Field Investigations, Facility Surveys, Mitigation Plans, Designing for Accessibility, and Universal Design.

Development of Regulations
DSA staff has drafted proposed regulations and is in the final stages of preparing for rulemaking, scheduled to begin toward the middle of 2006. To date, DSA has hosted two public workshops with two more presently being planned for the end of March (in San Diego) and the first part of April (in Sacramento). Specific notice regarding these meetings is located at www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov/CertifiedAccess/default.htm. The purpose of these workshops is to receive public comment on the proposed governance and
administration of the CASp Program.

**Marketing and Program Information**

DSA executive staff has initiated discussions with key government allies and other stakeholder groups, such as the California Architects Board, the California Association of Local Building Officials and the California Foundation of Independent Living Centers. Anticipation of key program announcements is increasing, and the CASp Program will begin accepting applications for the first time in mid 2006. Program-related announcements will first appear on the web page for the CASp Program on the DSA website (see below).

Project staff is preparing a comprehensive *Candidate Handbook*. This publication is written with the aspiring Access Specialist in mind, and will describe the step-by-step process for attaining state certification as an Access Specialist.

For more information, please contact:

**Division of the State Architect**
**Certified Access Specialist Program**
1102 Q Street, Suite 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 322-4700
www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov/CertifiedAccess
# Certification Requirements

## APPENDIX ‘A’

## California Certified Access Specialist Program

### Certification Requirements

February 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certification Classification</th>
<th>Access Investigator</th>
<th>Access Architect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Potential Candidates</td>
<td>Practicing Accessibility Consultants and allied Design Consultants</td>
<td>Architects Landscape Architects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plans Examiners and Construction Inspectors</td>
<td>Individuals Qualified By Nontraditional Means</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience Qualification</td>
<td>Understanding of construction practice and regulation, evidenced by at least two years full-time experience:</td>
<td>As required for initial California licensing as an Architect or Landscape Architect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1) Employed by a code enforcement agency or consulting firm;</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2) Employed by a Design Professional, respectively licensed or certified as such;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3) Employed by a licensed general contractor; or</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(4) Involved in an environment that has resulted in a body of knowledge incorporating accessibility codes and standards.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Education Qualification</td>
<td>Understanding of construction concepts and basic design principles, evidenced by:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1) Completion of fifteen semester units of college coursework in construction technology or a related field of study; or</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2) High school diploma or GED, and two additional years of eligible experience in addition to the specified experience qualification above.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination Qualification</td>
<td>Core Knowledge Exam</td>
<td>Access Architect Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Required Knowledge Bases

### California Certified Access Specialist Program

#### February 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certification Classification</th>
<th>Access Investigator</th>
<th>Access Architect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional Roles</td>
<td><strong>Independent consultant</strong> to the general public or a code enforcement agency.</td>
<td><strong>Prime Design Professional</strong> with direct contractual relationship with a facility owner or operator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Employee</strong> of a code enforcement agency.</td>
<td><strong>Staff Design Professional</strong>, responsible for accessibility of specific construction projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Employee</strong> responsible for accessibility to employer’s facilities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Design Services             | May provide professional design services, as limited by the Architects Practice Act. | Professionally responsible for providing accessibility. |

### Core Knowledge Base

- Prescriptive Requirements of Accessibility Codes and Standards
- Project Scoping of Access Requirements
- Field Investigations and Accessibility Reports

### Knowledge of Professional Practices

- Plan Review of Accessible Features in Construction Documents
- Design of Accessible Features in Construction Documents
- Legal Performance Obligations to Design for Accessibility
- Designing for Accessibility with Equivalent Facilitation
- Applied Principles of Universal Design