



April 8, 2009

Dear K-12 School Districts:

Although these are challenging fiscal times for the State of California, the Division of the State Architect (DSA) is committed to moving school construction projects forward, thus creating as many jobs as possible for our citizens.

The availability of Federal economic stimulus funds coupled with local school bond approvals creates an opportunity to advance “shovel-ready” school construction projects. Since state bond proceeds for matching school construction funds are likely to be impacted for many months, it is imperative that we find a way to help projects that don’t require state matching funds get started.

The challenge for DSA is to accelerate our approvals while maintaining a fair and level playing field for all districts. Therefore I have directed DSA staff to develop a specific, focused track for plan approvals for each project you certify that:

- The district is ready to proceed to construction within 75 days from receiving stamped documents from DSA; and
- The district is capable of financing the costs of the construction project entirely from district sources and will not seek state matching funds.

In order to do this, we will create a process that concentrates on the approvals for these projects by taking them out of order. However, we will also continue to process all other applications on the normal “first in-first started” basis. This new category of project approval will continue to be in effect until the state’s school construction backlog is dealt with and our fiscal footing is back to normal.

Finally, to ensure that every application is processed expeditiously, we are doing everything within our powers to expand DSA staff and fill vacancies in an effort to reduce our backlog.

If all of us work together, we can keep school construction projects moving steadily

forward, put more Californians back to work, and keep our students learning in the safest and best schools in the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David F. Thorman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David F. Thorman, AIA
State Architect