DGS CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

February 24, 2015

Ms. Diane F. Boyer-Vine
Legislative Counsel
State Capitol, Room 3021, B-30
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Boyer-Vine:

Pursuant to the requirements of California Government Code Section 4470(c), the Department of General Services is submitting the 2015 annual report regarding the Disability Access and Education Revolving Fund.

In keeping with our commitment to encourage conservation, we have posted this report to our website. The report is titled "Disability Access and Education Revolving Fund 2015," and can be viewed at http://www.dgs.ca.gov/ola/home/2015Reports.aspx.

If you wish to receive a printed copy of this report, please contact Andrew Deller at the Division of the State Architect at (916) 327-5410 or andrew.deller@dgs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Esteban Almanza
Acting Director

cc: See attached distribution list
Chester A. Widom, State Architect, Department of General Services

Report on the

Disability Access and Education Revolving Fund
March 1, 2015

State of California
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

Government Operations Agency
Marybel Batjer, Secretary

Department of General Services
Esteban Almanza, Acting Director

Division of the State Architect
Chester A. Widom, FAIA, State Architect

BACKGROUND

Chapter 383, Statutes of 2012 (SB 1186 - Steinberg and Dutton) requires any applicant for a local business license or equivalent to pay an additional $1 fee to the local government that issued the business license. Local governments must submit 30 percent of the fee revenue to the Division of the State Architect (State Architect) for deposit into the Disability Access and Education Revolving Fund (Fund).

The purpose of the Fund is to provide increased compliance with state and federal accessibility requirements by:

- Increasing the number of certified access specialists (CASp).
- Increasing State Architect oversight of the CASp program.
- Expanding educational and outreach efforts for compliance with accessibility requirements.

SB 1186 added Government Code Section 4470(c), which requires the State Architect to submit an annual report for the previous calendar year that identifies the amounts of funds transmitted to the State Architect and moneys expended from the Fund. The State Architect must report the total fees transmitted to the Fund by local governments during the previous calendar year and their distribution, including Fund resources spent on:

- Administrative services.
- Moderating certification and examination fees for the CASp program.
- Establishing oversight of the CASp program.
- Developing and disseminating educational materials to facilitate compliance with state and federal access requirements.

Information provided in this report is based on accounting data that represents amounts collected by the state from local governments, and state billing information indicating amounts spent in each specific reporting category.

TOTAL FEES TRANSMITTED TO THE FUND

The State Architect received a total of $490,880.47 from fees collected by local governments for the 2014 calendar year. In addition, the State Architect received more than $200,000 in late payments attributable to the 2013 calendar year. The State Architect received Fund transmittals from the 10 largest cities in California, except the City of Los Angeles. The State Architect continues to work with the City of Los Angeles to apprise them of SB 1186 requirements.

FUND RESOURCES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BY THE STATE ARCHITECT

The State Architect spent $179,517.16 of Fund resources for administrative services in 2014. Primary administrative services included: operation of the fee collection system and related instruction, outreach, forms development, and technical guidance.

FUND RESOURCES USED TO MODERATE CASp CERTIFICATION AND EXAMINATION FEES

The State Architect did not spend funds for this purpose in 2014. In 2013, the application fee for California licensed architects, landscape architects, civil engineers, and structural engineers

was lowered from $500 to $100 in order to attract an increased number of CASp applicants. Since implementation of the new fee structure, the number of CASp applicants with these credentials has increased 29 percent. In 2015, the State Architect plans to conduct further analysis of CASp certification and examination fees.

FUND RESOURCES USED TO INCREASE OVERSIGHT OF THE CASp PROGRAM

The State Architect spent $67,053.64 of Fund resources to increase oversight of the CASp program. Major items included regulations and procedures development to address CASp conduct, discipline, and audits. Procedures were also developed to provide for customer feedback and concerns.

FUND RESOURCES USED FOR EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The State Architect spent $241,867.95 for education and outreach. In 2014, the State Architect placed an emphasis on increasing awareness of the CASp program and its benefits to business and commercial property owners. Methods included: website and form updates, social media outreach, partnerships with third-party business organizations, and distribution of targeted messages to the business community. In addition, the State Architect continued its outreach to CASps and CASp candidates through the creation and distribution of a quarterly newsletter.