



Economic Woes Can't Stop Our Progress

By Rob Cook, Executive Officer

In order to ensure that as many projects are funded as possible, the 150 employees at the Office of Public School Construction seek to administer our programs with the highest regard for equity, integrity and results . . .

[Read more](#)

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"To enrich the lives of California's school children as stewards of the taxpayers' commitment to education"

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor, State of California

FRED AGUIAR
Secretary, State and Consumer Services Agency

WILL BUSH
Director, Department of General Services



Office of Public School Construction
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

Economic Woes Can't Stop Our Progress

By Rob Cook, Executive Officer



In order to ensure that as many projects are funded as possible, the 150 employees at the Office of Public School Construction seek to administer our programs with the highest regard for equity, integrity and results. Since the inception of the School Facility Program in 1998, the voters have authorized \$35.4 billion in bond funds and the State Allocation Board (SAB) has apportioned more than \$29 billion to more than 9,000 projects. In calendar year 2008 alone, the SAB apportioned a total of \$5.03 billion, contributing funds to 1,293 school facilities projects statewide.

While the current fiscal climate has impacted the SAB's ability to release funds for school construction projects, new funding opportunities are on the horizon. This issue of *Building Blocks* highlights new upcoming funding cycles for the Charter School Facilities Program and the Career Technical Education Facilities Program. I encourage you to take advantage of these latest opportunities for funding under these unique programs.

Please send comments and suggestions for future editions of *Building Blocks* to opscnews@dgs.ca.gov.

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Office of Public School Construction
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

California Leads the Way in Great School Design

By Senator Loni Hancock, State Allocation Board member



The design, construction and modernization of school facilities have been long-time interests of mine. I believe that we can and must design schools that improve learning environments, are attractive and safe, increase energy efficiency and are environmentally sound. California has the opportunity to lead the nation in greening our public schools. To accomplish this, we have to become more purposeful in looking at all of the opportunities we have to utilize materials that are high quality, conserve resources, and meet industry standards for energy efficiency.

Despite the state's numerous fiscal challenges, the State Allocation Board (SAB) is able to continue approving projects to improve and construct school facilities, distributing funds as they become available. Public support for modernizing older buildings and building new facilities will allow the SAB to approve more than a billion dollars in grants this year. I'm committed to making the process for school districts as collaborative and user-friendly as possible. As one of the newest members of the board, I encourage districts to make the board aware if there are barriers to accessing and utilizing available facilities funds.

I strongly encourage school board members, administrators and school staff to work collaboratively with facility planners, architects and builders to go beyond the traditional and commit to build and modernize facilities that meet high performance standards.

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Continued...

The Proposition 1D funds, including the [High Performance Incentive Grant](#), the [Career Technical Education Facilities Program](#) and [Seismic Mitigation](#) funds are provided to enable school districts to approach planning and constructing facilities for the 21st century.

Utilizing all of the [programs](#) administered by the SAB will allow school districts to provide facilities that are beautiful, safe, and environmentally sound while improving student achievement and teacher performance.

Detailed information on my background is available [online](#).



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Office of Public School Construction
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

Inclusiveness and Transparency Strengthen Board Actions

By Susan Ronnback, Interim Assistant Executive Officer of the State Allocation Board



I am honored to have been selected to serve as the Interim Assistant Executive Officer (AEO) of the State Allocation Board (SAB). In this capacity, I serve as the board's independent liaison with the Office of Public School Construction and school facility stakeholders in the administration of the state's School Facility Program. My role includes serving as chair of the SAB's Implementation Committee as well as facilitating the establishment of both the SAB Audit and Rules and Regulations Subcommittees, created by board action earlier this year.

My professional background consists of 26 years in state service; 20 of those as a legislative staffer, including a stint as K-12 Education Consultant for the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee. I have also served in the Department of Education and, most recently, in the Governor's Office of the Secretary of Education.

Collectively, these roles have given me exposure and understanding of the often very different perspectives and concerns regarding California's public education needs. They have also strengthened the belief that it is inclusiveness and transparency that best serves a decision making entity, in this case the SAB, as it carries out its role and responsibilities for California's School Facility Program.

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Continued...



I look forward to working with you, the stakeholders and ultimate stewards of California's school facilities, toward achieving the collective goal of providing the type and quality of school facilities that will best enhance student learning and that will meet the ever evolving future education needs of California's public school students.

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STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

The New Charter School Filing Round

By Travis Williams

The State Allocation Board recently approved a new application filing round for the Charter School Facilities Program (CSFP) to quickly distribute approximately \$50 million of remaining funds in Propositions 47 and 1D. Applications can be submitted from July 1, 2009, through September 28, 2009.

The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) will be holding statewide workshops to provide charter schools with all of the tools and information necessary to submit complete and viable preliminary apportionment applications. The OPSC will webcast a workshop to make it easier for charter schools to participate. We will be posting the workshop dates on our Web site and will also be e-mailing the information out to school districts, as well as charter schools.

For more information concerning the preliminary charter school apportionment, please visit the following link to the CSFP Web page: <http://www.opsc.dgs.ca.gov/Programs/SFPprogams/CSF.htm>, or contact:

Jason Casillas – (916) 445-6286 or jason.casillas@dgs.ca.gov; or
Travis Williams – (916) 323-7794 or travis.williams@dgs.ca.gov.

Charter School Facility Funding Workshops

The Office of Public School Construction, the California School Finance Authority, and the California Department of Education are holding several workshops across the state to help interested charter schools learn more about the application process.

• Fresno – Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Fresno County Office of Education
1111 Van Ness Avenue, Room 201
Fresno, CA 93721
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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• **Sacramento – Monday, July 13, 2009 – Webcast!**

California Department of Education
1430 N Street, Room 1101
Sacramento, CA 95814
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

These workshops will include a program overview as well as an opportunity for applicants to meet one-on-one with staff members to walk through an application.



First Seismic Mitigation Program Application Approved

At the June 24, 2009, State Allocation Board (SAB) meeting, the SAB approved the first application for funding under the Seismic Mitigation Program. The project is for replacement of the gymnasium at the San Ramon Valley High School in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. The gymnasium building was determined to qualify as a "Most Vulnerable Category 2 Building" by the Division of the State Architect. For more information on the Seismic Mitigation Program, please view the [Facility Hardship Grant](#) section of our Web site or contact Josh Damoth at (916) 323-7938 or josh.damoth@dgs.ca.gov.

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Third Funding Cycle Approved for the Career Technical Education Facilities Program

By Tracy Sharp

The State Allocation Board recently approved a third funding cycle for the Career Technical Education Facilities Program (CTEFP) to distribute approximately \$82 million of remaining funds in Proposition 1D.

Interested applicants are reminded that obtaining a CTEFP grant requires two steps. The first step is to submit a grant application to the California Department of Education (CDE) by Sept. 18, 2009. The CDE will review and score the grant application. The application must receive a minimum score of 105 points out of a possible 170 to move forward to the second step. The applicant will then submit an Application for Career Technical Education Funding (Form SAB 50-10) to the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) by March 31, 2010, with the required documents listed on the form.

For more information concerning the application process, please visit the following link to the CTEFP Web page: <http://www.opsc.dgs.ca.gov/Programs/SFPPrograms/CTEFP.htm>, or contact your OPSC project manager.

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Office of Public School Construction
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

Bond Proceeds Release Continues

By Veronica Kaldani and Michael Watanabe

The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) is releasing \$1.9 billion in bond sale proceeds for school facility projects that received an apportionment from the State Allocation Board, but received no funds due to the freeze placed on disbursements from the Pooled Money Investment Board.

The OPSC processed the following fund releases from the March bond sale as of June 12, 2009:

Total funds released: \$543.6 million of \$548 million — 99 percent of bond funds

Total projects: 227 out of 235 — 97 percent of projects receiving funds

Total districts: 82 out of 85 school districts — 96 percent of districts

The OPSC processed the following fund releases from the April bond sale as of June 12, 2009:

Total funds released: \$761.4 million of \$1.4 billion — 53 percent of bond funds

Total projects: 167 out of 232 — 72 percent of projects receiving funds

Total districts: 72 out of 93 — 77 percent of districts

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Budget Act Impacts to the Emergency Repair Program

By Masha Lutsuk



The State Budget Act revisions, specifically Senate Bill (SB) X3 4, made changes to the Deferred Maintenance Program. These changes have an impact on school districts that participate in the Emergency Repair Program (ERP).

SB X3 4 waives the Deferred Maintenance local matching deposit required to participate in the ERP for the 2008-09 through 2012-13 fiscal years. The ERP statute, however, still requires that ERP dollars supplement, not supplant funds available for maintenance.

For more information on the recent changes and answers to the most frequently asked questions about the ERP, please visit our Web site at the following link: http://www.opsc.dgs.ca.gov/Programs/SABPrograms/ERP_FAQ.htm.

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Office of Public School Construction
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

Board Meeting Agenda Available Online

By Shelley Nishikawa

In an effort to be more green and streamline our operation, the Office of Public School Construction is offering districts the option to receive electronic delivery of meeting agendas and notices. Districts will have immediate access to get just the materials they want faster, better and cheaper. Additional benefits of the "e-agenda" include:

- It's downloadable.
- It's searchable.
- You can print only pages you need.
- You can save it for your records.
- It's available without having to come to Sacramento.

Customer comments:

"I already scan my hard copy and put it on file after the meetings – so an electronic copy would be much better for me! I keep full editions for reference but only need a few pages of each month's agenda during the meeting. This would be wonderful for me! I hope others feel the same. It's time to save a few trees."

"I'm all for it. Other than the specific pages for project approvals, most districts (and consultants) are mainly interested in the specials and policy issues. Having a PDF file that is searchable would be great."

E-agenda fun facts:

- 974** = number of "hits" on the e-agenda the first week of release
- 1,762** = dollars in postage to mail hard-copy agenda each month
- 30** = cases of paper needed to produce agenda binders each month

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Funding on the Way for ‘Extreme Hardship’ Projects

The State Allocation Board approved and apportioned funds for 132 Deferred Maintenance Program “Extreme Hardship” projects at the April 2009 meeting. The funds for these projects have been released by the State Controller’s Office.

The OPSC Web site provides [additional details for this program](#).



The School Facility Program: By the Numbers

Since the inception of the School Facility Program in 1998, voters have authorized \$35.4 billion in bond funds, and the State Allocation Board (SAB) has apportioned more than \$29 billion for more than 9,000 projects.

In calendar year 2008, the SAB made the following apportionments:

| Program | Apportionment | Total # of Projects |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| New Construction | \$ 2,036,511,789 | 340 |
| Modernization | \$ 707,382,332 | 376 |
| Career Technical Education | \$ 417,601,473 | 425 |
| High Performance Schools | \$ 11,387,995 | 44 |
| Overcrowding Relief Grant | \$ 98,981,077 | 16 |
| Critically Overcrowded Schools | \$ 1,174,722,246 | 37 |
| Charter Schools | \$ 559,389,224 | 37 |
| Joint-Use | \$ 23,155,629 | 18 |
| Grand Total: | \$ 5,029,131,765 | 1,293 |

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Office of Public School Construction
 STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

'Unfunded List' Districts: Don't Submit Fund Release Authorizations Yet

At the March, April, May and June, State Allocation Board (SAB) meetings, the SAB approved an "unfunded list" for School Facility Program applications. This "unfunded approval" does not constitute a guarantee of future funding and only acknowledges a school district's submittal of a complete Application for Funding (Form SAB 50-04).

The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) would like to remind school districts that they should not submit a Fund Release Authorization (Form SAB 50-05) for projects on the unfunded list. Unfortunately, the OPSC is not able to accept or process Fund Release Authorizations until the application receives a funding "apportionment" from the SAB. Any Fund Release Authorization submitted prior to a funding "apportionment" will have to be returned to the school district.

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STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

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Upcoming Meetings

State Allocation Board [View calendar](#)

- July 22, 2009
- Aug. 26, 2009
- Sept. 23, 2009

Implementation Committee [View calendar](#)

- July 10, 2009
- Aug. 7, 2009
- Sept. 3, 2009

Program Application Deadlines

- Overcrowding Relief Grant – Fourth Round July 31, 2009
- Career Technical Education Facilities Program –Third Cycle
 - CDE Grant Application due to CDE by Sept.18, 2009
 - OPSC Application for Funding (Form SAB 50-10) due ~~Mar. 31, 2010~~
- Charter School Facilities Program Sept. 28, 2009
- Critically Overcrowded Schools Program
 - Projects apportioned in October 2004 that received an extension*
 - Final Conversion Application due by Oct. 30, 2009

Reports

- Regional Occupational Center or Program Facilities Report (Form 406R) Sept. 1, 2009

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Van Nuys High School New Gymnasium Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Monday, June 1, 2009 — 10:00 a.m.
Van Nuys High School, Van Nuys

Valley Region Span K-8 #1 New School Construction Kick-off

Wednesday, June 3, 2009 — 10:00 a.m.
Olive Vista Middle School, Sylmar

Verdugo Hills High School New Softball Field Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Wednesday, June 10, 2009 — 10:00 a.m.
Verdugo Hills High School, Tujunga

Los Angeles School Police Department New Substation Ribbon Cutting

Monday, June 15, 2009 — 10:00 a.m.
Maclay Middle School, Pacoima

Central Region High School #16 New School Groundbreaking Ceremony

Wednesday, June 24, 2009 — 10:00 a.m.
Central Region High School #16, Los Angeles

Murrieta Mesa High School Dedication Ceremony

Friday, July 31, 2009 - 6:00 p.m.
Murrieta Mesa High School, Murrieta

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