

STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

June 23, 2011

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State Eases Rules for Schools to Tap Seismic Retrofit Monies

(Sacramento, CA) – The State Allocation Board (SAB) has made it easier for school districts to access \$194.8 million in unused seismic retrofit funds. At its monthly meeting last night, the SAB amended the School Facility Program (SFP) regulations for the Seismic Mitigation Program; removing shaking intensity benchmarks and refocusing the criteria to direct funds toward potentially vulnerable schools.

“Governor Brown wanted to ensure that the SAB provided greater access for schools to seismic retrofit monies,” said Pedro Reyes, State Allocation Board Chair. “The SAB’s action creates that access to Prop. 1D seismic funds and provides an incentive to districts who may have been sitting on the sidelines waiting for the opportunity to apply.”

The new SMP regulations will utilize criteria outlined in the Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998 [Section 1859.82\(a\)\(1\)\(C 1-4\)](#) which includes the following requirements to evaluate future seismic funding requests:

- The school facility must be a [“Category 2”](#) building type pursuant to [Assembly Bill 300](#).
- The building must be designed for occupancy by students and staff.
- The project must have an accompanying structural engineer’s report identifying the building deficiencies and reasoning for concluding the building has a potential for catastrophic collapse in a seismic event, including, but not limited to, ground shaking, liquefaction, or landslide.
- The district must obtain Division of State Architect concurrence with the structural engineer’s report to establish program eligibility.

Proposition 1D, approved by California voters in November, 2006, provided \$199.5 million in grant funds for SMP construction projects determined to have “most vulnerable California school facilities status.” These grant funds are provided to repair, reconstruct, or replace the most vulnerable school facilities.

As of June 2011, two school districts, Piedmont City Unified School District and San Ramon Valley Unified School District, have received SMP funding to rehabilitate or replace seismically vulnerable buildings. A third district, West Contra Costa Unified School District has received conceptual approval for a project and is anticipated to receive another \$14.2 million of the remaining funds.

The SAB is responsible for determining the allocation of voter-approved school construction bonds, as well as the administration of the School Facility Program, the State Relocatable Classroom Program and the Deferred Maintenance Program. The SAB is the policy level body for programs administered by the Office of Public School Construction, which provides the staff and support for state financing of school facilities. Funds for these projects are provided by bonds authorized under Propositions 1D, 47 and 55.

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