

OPSC names school projects to be funded

SI&A Cabinet Report

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The much-anticipated list of 377 shovel-ready school construction projects recommended to receive state matching funds was released Wednesday by the Office of Public School Construction.

Districts with selected projects are expected to receive approval for funding next week when the State Allocation Board reviews the list, valued at \$924.2 million.

Once funded, construction on the projects must begin within 90 days.

The infusion of cash comes from the state's sale of \$1.8 billion in general obligation bonds in October.

At that time, Gov. Jerry Brown awarded a \$1 billion share of the proceeds to school construction projects, with the balance of the money going to state and local transportation programs.

Some 504 certified projects, submitted by 187 districts and totaling \$1.34 billion, have been stalled on the OPSC's "unfunded approvals" list awaiting the state's required matching contribution.

The projects expected to be funded next week were given priority because the managing districts submitted certification letters stating that if funds were made available, they could begin construction within 90 days.

The OPSC administers the state's \$35 billion, voter-approved school facilities construction program, however, money in several of the program's various funds – such as new construction and modernization – were running critically low.

This led to the creation of the unfunded approvals list – projects that had gone through the state's review process and been approved but for which the state had no matching funds to award.

The State Allocation Board meets Wednesday at 2 p.m. in the State Capitol, room 126.