

Rancho Mirage High School, Palm Springs Unified School District



Lisa Silverman
Executive Officer

Facility Hardship Funding

California is a state that is home to numerous types of natural disasters including wildfires, earthquakes, and floods to name a few. The recent Southern California wildfires are a terrible reminder that unexpected misfortune and hardship can strike at any time.

Assistance may be available to school districts when adversity strikes. School districts may be eligible for School Facility Program Facility Hardship funding for facilities damaged or destroyed by natural disasters. Facilities in a condition that poses an imminent health and safety threat to pupils and staff may be eligible for Facility Hardship funding even if the condition is not caused by a natural disaster.

While no one can predict a health and safety problem, the time to plan for submitting a request for Facility Hardship funding begins when you are first

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Building Blocks

The Office of Public School Construction newsletter

“To enrich the lives of California’s school children as stewards of the taxpayers’ commitment to education”

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor, State of California

MARYBEL BATJER
Secretary, Government Operations Agency

FRED KLASS
Director, Department of General Services



Office of Public School Construction
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

Facility Hardship Funding, continued...

evaluating a possible imminent health and safety threat. The Office of Public School Construction’s (OPSC) Facility Hardship team is available to tour affected facilities and provide face-to-face outreach on how to be successful in our program. You may call or email any member of the team to set up the meeting. Also, we recommend that you visit the [California Office of Emergency Services](#) website, the state’s first responders during natural disasters.

Currently there is no remaining new construction or modernization bond authority to fund Facility Hardship projects. However, Facility Hardship applications are processed to the State Allocation Board as soon as sufficient authority is available, and when approved, they are placed at the top of the Unfunded List (Lack of AB 55 Loans). Approved Facility Hardship applications participating in the [priority funding](#) process are first to receive funding when cash is made available through funds returned to the state or through the sale of bonds.

It is important to note that Facility Hardship grants will be reduced by fifty percent of any insurance proceeds a district collects for repair or replacement of the displaced facilities.

To apply for Facility Hardship funding, please see the list of documents required for a complete Facility Hardship application by clicking [here](#). For more information about the Facility Hardship Program, please visit the [OPSC website](#).

Even if your schools have not sustained damage from recent wildfires, there may be other projects eligible for Facility Hardship funding. We encourage you to contact our staff to evaluate your needs.

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

Lisa Silverman, Executive Officer

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Construction Cost Publications: Regulatory Amendments

by Lisa Yuki

At its May 28, 2014 meeting, the State Allocation Board (SAB) approved technical amendments to the School Facility Program (SFP) Regulations to allow for the continued use of specific construction cost publications.

The SFP Regulations state that the construction cost publications *Saylor Current Construction Costs* and *Saylor Current Construction Costs Remodeling/Repair* are to be used to calculate grants based on cost estimates that include site development (off-site, service-site and utility work), demolition costs for replaced facilities, Seismic Mitigation Program projects, and Facility Hardship projects.

These manuals are published by Saylor Publications, Inc., which was purchased in 2011 by Sierra West Group. As of January 1, 2015, the Sierra West Group will continue to publish the manuals but the titles will change to *Current Construction Costs* and *Repair Remodeling Construction Costs*, without reference to the "Saylor" trademark. The amended regulations reflect the changes to the titles while maintaining consistency in the cost estimating manuals used to verify requested construction costs since the inception of the SFP.

These construction cost manuals are not related to the annual adjustment to the SFP grants for changes in the Class B construction cost index (CCI) that SAB typically adopts at its January meeting. The regulatory amendments do not affect the per-pupil grants for New Construction, Modernization, and other grants that are adjusted annually for CCI changes.

The regulatory amendments by the SAB do not take effect until approved by the Office of Administrative Law. Districts can check the status of these regulations in the Regulatory Update section of future issues of *Building Blocks* or on the OPSC's [Proposed Regulatory Changes](#) web page.

If you have any questions, please contact your [OPSC project manager](#).

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Priority Funding – Current Filing Period and Nonparticipation Information

By Travis Williams

The seventh priority funding (PF) request period began on May 14, 2014 and ends at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2014. Priority funding requests with original signatures must be physically received by the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) before the close of business on June 12, 2014 at the OPSC office located at 707 Third Street, West Sacramento, CA 95605. Requests submitted during this filing period will be valid from July 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

On March 25, 2013, the Nonparticipation in Priority Funding Process regulations became effective. Under the new regulations, districts with projects on the [Unfunded List \(Lack of AB 55 Loans\)](#) that have two occurrences of nonparticipation in the PF process will have their project rescinded without further State Allocation Board (SAB) action.

A nonparticipation occurrence can occur in two ways: (1) the district does not request to convert an unfunded approval to an apportionment by submitting a PF request, or (2) the district does not submit a valid [Fund Release Authorization](#) (Form SAB 50-05) within 90 days of an apportionment.

A rescinded application will not be placed on the Unfunded List (Lack of AB 55 Loans) or the Applications Received Beyond Bond Authority List. Bond authority from a rescinded project will return to the bond fund it originated from and the SAB may use this bond authority to provide unfunded approvals to other projects in the future. New Construction or Modernization eligibility used on a rescinded project will be reinstated to the district's or school site's eligibility baseline.

Districts must submit a valid PF request before the end of any 30-day PF request period if they have a project on the Unfunded List (Lack of AB 55 Loans), or it will result in one nonparticipation occurrence. This also applies to districts with projects that are placed on the Unfunded List (Lack of AB 55

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Priority Funding – Current Filing Period and Nonparticipation Information, continued...

Loans) during a 30-day PF filing period. For example, the May 28, 2014 SAB meeting took place during the PF filing round beginning on May 14, 2014 and ending on June 12, 2014. Districts with projects that were placed on the Unfunded List (Lack of AB 55 Loans) at the May 28, 2014 SAB meeting must submit a PF filing request after their project is placed on the list, but before the PF filing round ends on June 12, 2014.

Please note that on March 26, 2014, the SAB approved regulations that will extend the PF process to the Overcrowding Relief Grant, Career Technical Education Facilities Program, and Charter School Facilities Program projects. These regulations will likely become effective on October 1, 2014. For more information on these upcoming regulations see the [Priority Funding Process Extended to Three Additional Programs](#) article in the February/March/April 2014 edition of Building Blocks.

More information about the PF process can be found on the [PF information page](#) on the [OPSC website](#). For specific information on the nonparticipation occurrence lists or Frequently Asked Questions, please click on the links below:

- [Nonparticipation One-Occurrence List](#)
- [Nonparticipation Two-Occurrence List](#)
- [Nonparticipation Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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Fund Release Submittal Deadline – April 7, 2014 Apportionments

By Travis Williams

On April 7, 2014, the State Allocation Board (SAB) approved approximately \$372.2 million in priority funding (PF) apportionments for 105 projects. School districts whose projects receive a PF apportionment are required to submit a valid [Fund Release Authorization](#) (Form SAB 50-05) within 90 days of apportionment (with the exception of automatic fund release apportionments).

Districts that received state apportionments at the April 7, 2014 SAB meeting must submit a valid Form SAB 50-05 containing an original signature for each approved application. Forms SAB 50-05 must be physically received by the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) prior to 5:00 p.m. on July 7, 2014.

All mail sent to the OPSC should be addressed to our physical address listed below:

Office of Public School Construction
707 Third Street
West Sacramento, CA 95605

The OPSC also accepts mail via hand delivery. All in-person deliveries should be taken to the Ninth Floor reception desk.

Districts that fail to submit a valid Form SAB 50-05 will be subject to School Facility Program Regulation Section 1859.90.2 and will receive one nonparticipation occurrence.

For questions concerning the Form SAB 50-05 submittal or other PF questions, please contact your [project manager](#).

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Charter Funding Round Update

By Janna Shaffer

The 2014 Charter School Facilities Program (CSFP) application filing period for Preliminary Apportionments is no longer open. The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) accepted applications from April 1, 2014 through 5:00 p.m. on May 30, 2014. No applications received after 5:00 p.m. on the final day will be accepted by the OPSC.

There is currently \$87.6 million available to distribute among the qualifying charter schools. The OPSC received 72 applications during the filing period. As applications are processed, the OPSC will use a preference points system combined with a funding matrix to determine which applications will receive Preliminary Apportionments.

Preference points are based on the following conditions:

- Overcrowded School District – Up to 40 points
- Low Income (Based on Free/Reduced Lunch) – Up to 40 points
- Non-Profit Status – 40 points if definition of non-profit status is met
- Existing Facilities – 40 points if rehabilitating existing district-owned facilities

Applications with the highest number of preference points will be placed in a Funding Matrix based on geographical region, urban, rural, or suburban designation, school size, and grade level.

For further information regarding this filing round please refer to the [CSFP page](#) of the [OPSC website](#).

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School of the Month: Rancho Mirage High School

Palm Springs Unified School District, Riverside County

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:
New Construction Program

Rancho Mirage High School, the fourth comprehensive high school within the Palm Springs Unified School District, was completed in Spring 2013 and opened in Fall 2013. This first year, the school is serving more than 800 freshmen



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School of the Month, continued...



and sophomores, and at full capacity will be able to house more than 2,200 students within 87 classrooms. The first graduating class will be the class of 2016. The school's colors are maroon, silver and Columbia blue, and its mascot is the Rattler, chosen by a district-wide vote of students, staff and community members.

The school, designed and operated much like a college campus, consists of eight main buildings and covers a 330,000-square-foot area. The buildings are one and two-level predominantly steel structures with concrete slabs-on-grade



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School of the Month, continued...



and plaster finish. The football stadium is lower than the rest of the campus by roughly 30 feet in elevation, making for a true stadium feel. There are separate parking areas for students, staff, and visitors.

Rancho Mirage High boasts two career academies – performing arts and culinary arts. The Helen Galen Performing Arts Center is a state-of-the-art theater building which seats 607 attendees. It is named in honor of Helen Galen, who donated \$1.5 million to establish an endowment for the performing arts at the school. The theater is already being utilized, not only by the school’s performing arts department, but also by the after-school Musical Theatre University program (for all local high school students interested in performing arts) and community productions and performances.



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Bond Proceeds Released

The Office of Public School Construction has processed the following fund releases from 2009–2013 bond sales, as of April 30, 2014:

November 2009 Bond Sale and December 2009 Commercial Paper:

Total funds released: \$111.3 million of \$111.4 million — 99 percent
 Total projects: 39 projects have received funds

March 2010 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$1,350.1 billion of \$1,351.3 billion — 99 percent
 Total projects: 297 projects have received funds

November 2010 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$1,466.2 billion of \$1,483.1 billion — 99 percent
 Total projects: 537 projects have received funds

October 2011 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$992.8 million of \$1,003.5 million — 99 percent
 Total projects: 517 projects have received funds

April 2012 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$619.5 of \$619.5 million — 100 percent
 Total projects: 227 projects have received funds

October 2012 Bond Sale and March 2013 Commercial Paper:

Total funds released: \$228.0 of \$230.2 million — 99 percent
 Total projects: 114 projects have received funds

March 2013 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$493.9 million of \$500.0 million — 99 percent
 Total projects: 178 projects have received funds

April 2013 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$114.5 million of \$114.5 million — 100 percent
 Total projects: 83 projects have received funds

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Bond Proceeds Released, continued...

October 2013 Commercial Paper:

Total funds released: \$228.4 million of \$253.0 million — 90 percent

Total projects: 102 projects have received funds

December 2013 Commercial Paper:

Total funds released: \$22.9 million of \$26.3 million — 87 percent

Total projects: 6 projects have received funds

March 2014 Bond Sale and Commercial Paper:

Total funds released: \$19.7 million of \$331.3 million — 6 percent

Total projects: 10 projects have received funds

Did You Know...

Office of Public School Construction Discontinues Post Office Box

The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) is no longer receiving incoming mail via post office box.

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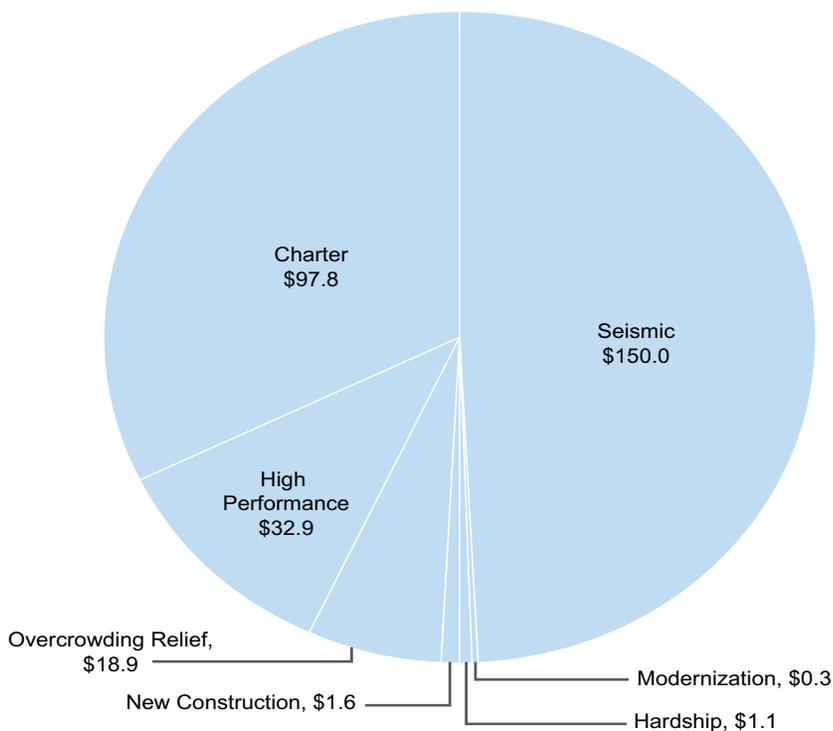
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Remaining Bond Authority

\$302.6 million as of May 28, 2014
(by program, in millions)



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Regulatory Update

Additional Programs That Must Participate in the Priority Funding Process

- Requires that projects qualifying under the ORG Program, CTEFP, and CSFP must participate in the Priority Funding Process.
- Amends Regulation Sections 1859.90.2, 1859.90.3, 1859.193, and 1959.197.
- 45-day public comment period ends July 7, 2014.

Charter School Facilities Program Rehabilitation Supplemental Grants

- Aligns CSFP Rehabilitation supplemental grants with Education Code requirements (50/50 cost share rather than 60/40 cost share).
- Amends Various Regulation Sections (22).
- Amends Forms SAB 50-04 and SAB 50-09.
- Adopts Regulation Sections 1859.167.1, 1859.167.2, 1859.167.3.
- Currently in administrative review process.

School Facility Program Regulatory Amendments: Construction Cost Publication

- Amends the title of the construction cost publication that is currently used for calculating certain grants in the School Facility Program.
- Amends Regulation Sections 1859.73.2, 1859.76, 1859.78.7, and 1859.82.
- Currently in administrative review process.

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Community Corner

Recent Events

Enterprise Elementary – Grand Opening

June 9, 2014—2:00 p.m.
Eastside Union School District, Lancaster

New Elementary – Ground Breaking

May 28, 2014—3:30 p.m.
McFarland Unified School District, McFarland

Alpaugh Unified Education Center – Brick Laying Ceremony

May 14, 2014—9:00 a.m.
Alpaugh Unified School District, Alpaugh

Vasquez High School – Ground Breaking

May 12, 2014—10:00 a.m.
Acton-Agua Unified School District, Acton

If you would like to share an upcoming event, please send an email to opscnews@dgs.ca.gov.

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OPSC Deadlines and Key Dates

Upcoming Meetings

State Allocation Board – View Calendar

- June 25, 2014 (Wednesday) 4:00 p.m. – Location TBD
- July 23, 2014 (Wednesday) 2:00 p.m. – Location TBD

Active Deadlines/Certifications

Sixth (Current) Priority Funding Request Period

- Filing Period Opened: November 13, 2013
- Filing Period Ended: December 12, 2013
- Requests Valid: January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014

Seventh Priority Funding Request Period

- Filing Period Began: May 14, 2014
- Filing Period Ends: June 12, 2014
- Requests Valid: July 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014

Upcoming Deadlines

Eighth Priority Funding Request Period

- Filing Period Begins: November 12, 2014
- Filing Period Ends: December 11, 2014
- Requests Valid: January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015

Funding Request Period

Districts receiving State Apportionments at the April 7, 2014 SAB meeting are required to submit a valid *Fund Release Authorization* (Form SAB 50-05) containing an original signature for each approved application. Forms SAB 50-05 must be physically received by the OPSC at 707 Third Street, West Sacramento, CA 95605 prior to 5:00 p.m. on July 7, 2014

For additional information, please see the [OPSC Events Calendar](#) online.

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