



The Desert Sands Unified School District's Shadow Hills High School opened in August of this year.

Year-End Review

Despite the many challenges presented in 2009, the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) has accomplished much in the past year.

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The Office of Public School Construction newsletter

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

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor, State of California

RON DIEDRICH
Acting Director, Department of General Services



Office of Public School Construction
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

Year-End Review



Rob Cook
Executive Officer

Despite the many challenges presented in 2009, the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) has accomplished much in the past year. This is evident in the by-the-numbers information below. In addition, this issue of Building Blocks features a [2009 At-A-Glance](#) timeline that outlines some of the year's highlights in the school facilities field. On behalf of everyone at the OPSC, I look forward to continuing our work in this rewarding field as we begin a new year.

In 2009...

Amount of Funds Released by the OPSC/State Allocation Board (SAB):	\$1.82 billion
Number of Unfunded Approvals in All SFP Programs:	396
Amount of Unfunded Approvals in All Programs:	\$1.89 billion
Total Number of Applications Received by the OPSC:	1,363
Number of Eligibility Approvals (updated School Facility Program (SFP) eligibility or newly established eligibility):	458
Number of SAB Special Items Prepared by the OPSC:	147
Number of Outreaches Conducted by OPSC Staff:	98
Number of Items Presented to the Implementation Committee:	17
Number of Regulation Changes that became Effective:	10
Number of Building Blocks Editions:	9
Number of Internal OPSC Process Improvement Workshops (Kaizens):	5

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

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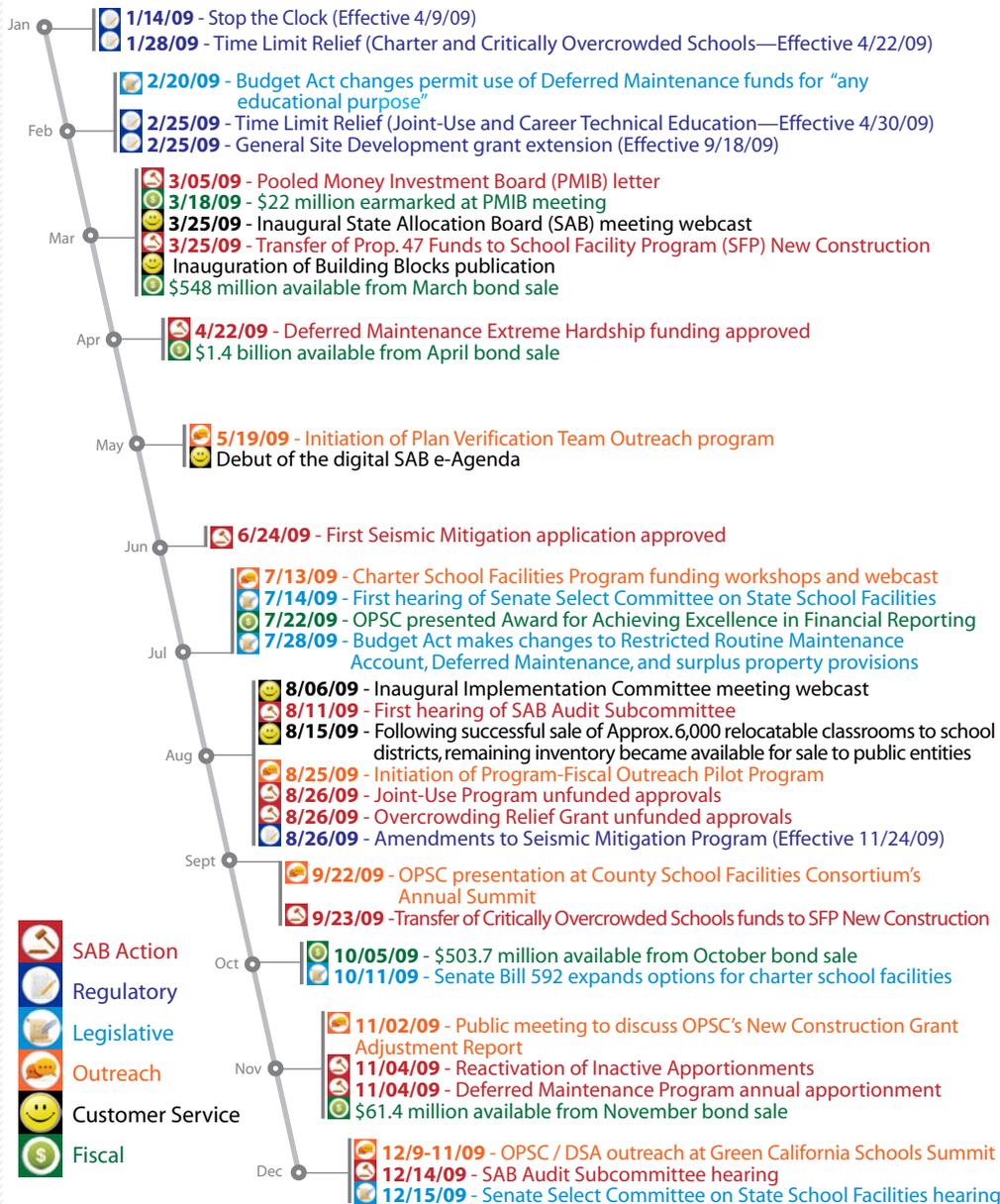
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2009 At-A-Glance



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A Message from the New Assistant Executive Officer

By Lisa Kaplan, Assistant Executive Officer of the State Allocation Board



Lisa Kaplan, AEO
State Allocation Board

I am truly honored to have been appointed Assistant Executive Officer (AEO) of the State Allocation Board (SAB). As the new AEO, my goal is to use my experience in law, school construction and politics to establish a good working relationship between all parties as the liaison between the SAB, the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC), and school districts.

I moved to Sacramento in 1997 to attend McGeorge School of Law, and have been practicing law off and on for the past ten years. Most recently, I ran my own governmental affairs / law firm, advising clients on legal issues related to construction litigation and politics, as well as representing entities at the local government level on various topics, which will assist me in drafting and interpreting rules and regulations here at the OPSC. In addition, as a former legislative staff member for several Assembly members, I will use my understanding of politics to help navigate our way around the political implications of regulatory and statutory decisions. Lastly, for the past seven years, I have also served as an elected school board member for the Natomas Unified School District. In this capacity, I have had exposure to the construction of several new energy efficient schools and the modernization of existing facilities. My role as a school board member provides me with the perspective to understand the effect and applicability of OPSC-proposed rules and regulations on school districts.

In my role as AEO, it is my policy to openly share information and honestly address issues and concerns as a conduit between the SAB, the OPSC, and school districts. I look forward to working with you to find innovative ways of maximizing the funding for all school construction programs, creating healthy, sustainable schools, all the while navigating the current budget crisis. Together we can maximize the learning environment for all of California's children.

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Changes to the Architect's Submittal Guidelines

by Josh Damoth

The [Architect's Submittal Guidelines](#) publication has been updated and posted to the Office of Public School Construction's (OPSC) Web site. In addition to updating the information, a new section has been added for Career Technical Education Facilities Program projects.

The OPSC Plan Verification Team has also provided workshops based on requests from various county offices of education to educate field practitioners on the submittal requirements for requesting new construction site development grants. The goal of these workshops is to maximize funding for school districts and county offices of education by informing them of eligible items. A school district or a county office can work with Plan Verification Team staff to provide a workshop within their region in the future.

An important goal of the OPSC Plan Verification Team is creating better lines of communication and improved customer service. If there are ever questions concerning possible issues on an upcoming project, it is beneficial to discuss those issues by setting up a call or a meeting with the Plan Verification Team before the application is submitted to the OPSC.



Did you know?

The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) and the Division of the State Architect (DSA) are collaborating on several ideas in order to improve efficiency and customer service. These ideas include side-by-side plan reviews that will make reviews faster and more efficient, internal OPSC and DSA workshops promoting additional collaboration between the agencies, and OPSC Plan Verification Team participation in DSA Academy classes on topics such as structural safety, accessibility, and fire life safety. We look forward to continuing this effort by the OPSC and the DSA to better serve districts statewide.

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Green California Schools Summit 2009

by Tim Hegedus



Master gardener Mud Baron of the Los Angeles Unified School District presents a live garden display and shares tips for integrating garden programs into school curriculum.

The third annual Green California Schools Summit, the largest green schools event in the U.S., was held in Pasadena this year from December 9 to 11. Over 100 vendors showcased their green products and services, and green schools experts gave presentations on everything from school gardens to recycling programs. On the exhibition floor, the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) joined with several other California government agencies, including the [Division of the State Architect](#), the [Department of Education](#), and the [Energy Commission](#), as part of an informational pathway called the "Passport to Grid Neutral and Green Schools." OPSC representatives [Tim Hegedus](#) and [Brian LaPask](#) were on hand to discuss funding opportunities such as the [High Performance Incentive](#) (HPI) grant as schools districts, design professionals, and other stakeholders explored strategies in building greener, more sustainable schools. OPSC staff also gathered input from stakeholders as we look ahead to potential updates to the HPI grant in 2010.

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Documents Needed for Requests to Transfer Site Sale Proceeds

By Rebecca Kirk and Bryan O'Dell

As mentioned in the August edition of Building Blocks, the Budget Act chaptered in July (Chapter 2, Statutes of 2009 [Assembly Bill X4 2—Evans]) permits school districts to transfer site sale proceeds into their general fund account under specified conditions, from July 28, 2009 through January 1, 2012. Districts must meet certain conditions prior to transferring the funds.

Pursuant to Education Code Section 17463.7, districts requesting to deposit site sale proceeds into their general fund account must submit the following documents in order for their request to be processed:

- A letter to the Executive Officer of the Office of Public School Construction requesting authorization, pursuant to Education Code Section 17463.7, from the State Allocation Board (SAB) to transfer site sale proceeds into the district's general fund account for a one-time general fund purpose.
- A school board resolution that certifies and states that:
 - Prior to transferring the funds, the school district presented a plan to the local school board detailing the source and use of the funds and explaining why the expenditure will not result in ongoing fiscal obligations for the district.
 - Prior to transferring the funds, the school district certified to the SAB that:
 - 1) The district has no major deferred maintenance needs that cannot be funded by the district's existing resources.
 - 2) The sale of the property does not violate the provisions of any local bond act.
 - 3) The property is not suitable for school use for the next ten years.
 - The property being sold was purchased entirely with local funds.
 - The proceeds of the sale of the site will be used for a one-time general fund purpose.

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- The school district acknowledges that it will be ineligible for State Deferred Maintenance hardship funding for five years after the transfer of funds into its general fund
- The school district acknowledges that the SAB will reduce any financial hardship funding to the district by the amount transferred into its general fund account.
- A copy of the plan that was submitted to the local school board detailing the source and use of the funds and explaining why the expenditure will not result in ongoing fiscal obligations for the district.
- A copy of the original site purchase agreement which delineates the original purchase price, the number of acres contained on the site, and the source of funds used to purchase the site.
- Documentation of the number of acres being sold from the site.

For more information regarding the transfer of site sale proceeds into general fund accounts, please contact:

Charles Robertson at (916) 323-4013 or charles.robertson@dgs.ca.gov
Wan Wong at (916) 323-3454 or wan.wong@dgs.ca.gov



The School Facility Program

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 9,485 projects for a total of...



Since the freeze placed on disbursements from the Pooled Money Investment Board, the SAB has accepted and processed unfunded approvals for 396 projects for a total of...



November Bond Sale

By Joel Ryan

During the week of November 16, 2009, the California State Treasurer’s Office conducted another successful general obligation bond sale. The Treasurer sold \$2 billion in bonds! After bonds are sold, it is the job of the Department of Finance to decide how much will be allotted for School Facility Program (SFP) projects and other infrastructure needs. The Treasurer’s Office has allocated \$61.4 million for SFP projects.

The Office of Public School Construction’s accounting staff is in the process of identifying SFP projects eligible to receive these funds.

For bond sale information, please visit the [Treasurer’s bond website](#).



December Implementation Committee Meeting

The following [items](#) were presented at the Implementation Committee meeting on December 7, 2009:

Change of Scope for School Facility Program Projects

Discussion of the process for a change of scope in a School Facility Program project

Alternative Education Loading Standards and Funding

Continued discussion on Alternative Education Loading Standards and Funding

Career Technical Education Facilities Program Changes

Continued discussion on proposed regulatory changes for the Career Technical Education Facilities Program

Revisions to Expenditure Report, Form SAB 50-06

Discussion of proposed revisions to the Form SAB 50-06 to clarify the instructions regarding interest reporting

Role of the Implementation Committee

Discussion of the current framework of the Implementation Committee

The meeting [webcast](#) is available online.

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Regulations Update

Implementation of Senate Bill 658

- Adopted at the March 25, 2009, State Allocation Board (SAB) meeting.
- Phases out Multi-Track Year-Round Program Education operational grants and makes related SFP eligibility changes.
- Effective date November 24, 2009.

Implementation of Senate Bill 1556

- Adopted at the May 27, 2009, SAB meeting.
- Proposed regulatory changes allow elementary school districts that meet specific criteria to report enrollment on a High School Attendance Area basis.
- Public comment period began November 20, 2009.

Seismic Mitigation Program Amendments

- Adopted at the August 26, 2009, SAB meeting with emergency status.
- Proposed to add four building types to the definition of "Most Vulnerable Category 2" school buildings and to reduce the ground shaking intensity factor criteria.
- Emergency effective date November 24, 2009.

Fiscal Crisis School Facility Program Amendments

- Adopted at the September 23, 2009, SAB meeting with emergency status.
 - Proposed to extend the sunset date to January 1, 2011 for SAB authority to find apportionments and preliminary apportionments "inactive" for various programs.
- Emergency effective date December 22, 2009.

One-Year Extension of General Site Development Grant

- Adopted at the November 4, 2009, SAB meeting.
- Proposed to extend the grant until no later than January 1, 2011.
- Review process continues.

Note: Regulations become effective upon review and approval of the Office of Administrative Law.

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Bond Proceeds Release Continues

By Veronica Kaldani and Michael Watanabe

The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) continues to release 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 has processed the following fund releases from the 2009 bond sales as of December 21, 2009:

March 2009 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$547.9 million of \$548 million — 99 percent of bond funds

Total projects: 234 projects have received funds

April 2009 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$1.2 billion of \$1.4 billion — 86 percent of bond funds

Total projects: 282 projects have received funds

October 2009 Bond Sale:

The total \$503.7 million has been distributed to the OPSC for fund releases. Fund release details will be reported as available in upcoming issues.



Did you know?

On Monday, November 2, the OPSC hosted a public meeting to discuss the findings of the New Construction Grant Adjustment Report. The webcast may be viewed at <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/Webcasts.htm>. A subsequent public meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 7, to further address questions from stakeholders.

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Upcoming Meetings

New Construction Grant Adjustment Report Discussion

- January 7, 2010
1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 126

State Allocation Board

- January 27, 2010

The 2010 State Allocation Board (SAB) meeting calendar has not yet been posted. A proposal has been made regarding the possibility of moving to bimonthly meetings. The proposal was made in an attempt to recapture the six working days lost to furloughs. It will provide the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) with more time to work with districts on amicable solutions to resolve appeals administratively. The proposal will be discussed at the January 27, 2010 SAB meeting.

[Webcasts of previous SAB meetings](#)

Implementation Committee [View calendar](#)

- February 4, 2010
- April 1, 2010
- June 3, 2010

[Webcasts of previous IMP meetings](#)

Program Application Deadlines

Overcrowding Relief Grant - Fifth Round

- Application for Funding (Form SAB 50-04) due January 29, 2010

Career Technical Education Facilities Program – Third Cycle

- Application for Funding (Form SAB 50-10) due April 1, 2010

Joint-Use Program Application due March 2, 2010

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