



Lincoln Elementary School, Stockton. Photograph provided by Lionakis Beaumont Design Group, Inc.

Looking Forward

Welcome to the latest edition of Building Blocks. The Office of Public School Construction is very pleased to report that the first Priorities in Funding round was a huge success. Fund release requests totaling \$408.1 million have been submitted for all 78 State apportionments made at the August 4, 2010 State Allocation Board meeting, for a participation rate of 100 percent!

[read more...](#)

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ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor, State of California

BILL LEONARD
State and Consumer Services Agency Secretary

RON DIEDRICH
Acting Director, Department of General Services



Office of Public School Construction
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

Looking Forward



Lisa Silverman
Acting Executive Officer

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It appears that the October 2010 Priorities in Funding round will be just as popular as the first. The OPSC has received requests for nearly 600 projects in 168 districts, totaling over \$1.9 billion. All requests to participate in the priority funding round will be presented at the December 15, 2010 Board meeting. Any projects receiving apportionments will have 90 days (until March 15, 2011) to submit a *Fund Release Authorization (SAB Form 50-05)*.

Cash available for the October 2010 Priorities in Funding round will include funds made available to the School Facility Program (SFP) by December 10, 2010. State General Obligation bond sales are currently underway. We are hopeful that these bond sales will make additional funds available for SFP projects.

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

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Labor Compliance Update: Suspension of Regulations

By Laurel Brode

Effective Friday, November 4, 2010, the Department of Industrial Relations' (DIR) labor compliance monitoring regulations under Chapter 7, Statutes of 2009 (Senate Bill [SB] X2 9 – Padilla) have been repealed. The repeal removes the August 1, 2010 effective date of the DIR's regulations. Without the effective date, the "new" labor compliance requirements created by SB X2 9 are no longer in effect.

Until further notice, school districts should follow current statute (Labor Code Sections 1771.5 and 1771.7) on labor compliance requirements. In other words, the "old" Labor Compliance Program (LCP) requirements that were in effect prior to August 1, 2010 are in effect. Therefore, projects funded from Propositions 47 or 55 are subject to LCP requirements that may be performed by the school district or an approved third party. School district "in-house" LCP programs and third party vendors must be approved by the DIR.

The OPSC is working with the DIR to assist school districts that awarded construction contracts between August 1, 2010 and November 4, 2010 through this transition. If your school district is one of those affected and you have questions, please contact:

Bryan O'Dell at (916) 375-4271 or Bryan.Odell@dgs.ca.gov
Laurel Brode at (916) 375-4570 or Laurel.Brode@dgs.ca.gov

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Energy Efficiency Funds Available for New Construction Projects

By Sam Smith

New construction projects with energy efficient features may apply for \$800,826 in remaining Energy Efficiency Funds to help augment the costs of energy efficient systems. These funds have been made available from April 1, 2010 until April 1, 2011, or until the funds are exhausted.

Energy Efficiency Funds, while similar to [High Performance Incentive](#) grants, are different in that they focus on energy features only. If your district has a project that is not quite ready to tackle multiple green building features, but is increasing energy efficiency, the Energy Efficiency grant may be well suited for your project.

To request the grant, districts must complete Section 5(j) of the *Application for Funding* ([Form SAB 50-04](#)) and must submit a Division of the State Architect (DSA) approved *Energy Compliance Review* (Form DSA ECR-1) as part of a complete funding package to the OPSC. Projects receiving this additional grant will be funded by Proposition 47 or 55 and will therefore need to implement a [Labor Compliance Program](#).

Interested districts should submit their plan review and Form DSA ECR-1 to the DSA as soon as possible; the deadline for application submittal to the OPSC is April 1, 2011. For an estimate of the review time needed by DSA, districts may utilize the [plan review time calculator](#) on the DSA's website.

Should you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact your [OPSC Project Manager](#).

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Performance Metrics Scorecard Now Live

By Nate Gargiulo

The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) is proud to announce that the Performance Metrics Scorecard is now live! The [Performance Metrics Scorecard](#) can be found on the [OPSC website](#) under the tab "Quick Links." The Performance Metrics Scorecard now allows customers to track their School Facility Program projects from original submittal to the OPSC to the day they are presented to the State Allocation Board (Board), providing an important resource and greater transparency into the OPSC's processing timelines.

Important Milestones

The Performance Metrics Scorecard shows the average number of days it takes to process an Adjusted Grant funding application to the Board. In addition, customers are able to track important milestones associated with their individual projects, such as:

- Application for Funding Received Date
- Date the OPSC's Application Review Team (ART) issued a 24-hour notice to the school district (if application was incomplete)
- Date the school district's 24-hour response was received by the ART
- Date when the 15-day letter was sent to the school district by the project manager, if applicable
- Date the 15-day response was received by the project manger
- Date the 4-day letter was sent to the school district, if applicable
- Date the 4-day response was received by the project manager
- Date that the application processing was complete
- Board approval date

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Search Capabilities

Districts are able to search by:

- Board date
- County
- District
- Project type
- Phase type (i.e. Preliminary or Final Apportionment)
- Application number

Points of Contact

We welcome your feedback. For more information, please contact:

Brian LaPask at (916) 375-4667 or Brian.LaPask@dgs.ca.gov
 Michael Watanabe at (916) 376-1646 or Michael.Watanabe@dgs.ca.gov

Did You Know?

Open for Business – Furlough Update

Effective November 1, 2010, the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) is no longer subject to mandatory furlough closures. Therefore, the OPSC will be open for business on regular business days, including Fridays.

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Webinars Coming Soon

By Josh Damoth

The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) is planning a series of How to Apply for School Facilities Funding webinars. The webinars are intended to be a comprehensive training tool that will cover the OPSC review process from A to Z.

More than 50 districts participated in the OPSC's last webinar, and positive feedback was received. Benefits of webcasts include convenience, interaction via email, and availability as a permanent reference on the OPSC website.

The current series schedule is as follows:

How to Apply for School Facilities Funding

Part I: Financial Hardship

January 10, 2011 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

- Overview of the Financial Hardship review process
- Documents needed to submit a complete Financial Hardship application
- Examples of specific documents to expedite review

Part II: Application Intake Standards

January 18, 2011 (tentative) - Time TBD

- Comprehensive list of required documents for various application types:
 - New construction eligibility
 - Modernization eligibility
 - New construction funding
 - Modernization funding
- Overview of the application intake process

Part III: Site Development Funding

January 24, 2011 (tentative)- Time TBD

- Technical & practical tips for design professionals and cost estimators to maximize site development funding for new construction projects

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Part IV: Site Acquisition Funding

Date & Time TBD

- Statutory and regulatory requirements
- Documents required to maximize site acquisition funding

Parts V & VI: Project Management Review

New Construction & Modernization Eligibility and Funding

Date & Time TBD

- Statutory and regulatory requirements
- Tips for maximizing program eligibility
- Tips to maximize eligibility for supplemental grant funding
- Overview of the complete OPSC review process

Presentation materials will be available online prior to each training. Further details and instructions for accessing each webinar will be provided as they become available. For further information, please contact:

Josh Damoth at (916) 375-4289 or Josh.Damoth@dgs.ca.gov
 Nate Gargiulo at (916) 375-4243 or Nate.Gargiulo@dgs.ca.gov

The School Facility Program

Since the inception of the School Facility Program in 1998, voters have authorized \$35.5 billion in bond funds, and the State Allocation Board (Board) has apportioned a total of...



Following conversions of some unfunded approved projects to apportionments, there are 850 total remaining unfunded approved projects for a total of...



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Bond Proceeds Released

By Michael Watanabe

The Office of Public School Construction has processed the following fund releases from 2009 and 2010 bond sales as of October 14, 2010:

March 2009 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$528.73 million of \$528.8 million — 99 percent
 Total projects: 234 projects have received funds

April 2009 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$1.335 billion of \$1.438 billion — 93 percent
 Total projects: 374 projects have received funds

October 2009 Bond Sale and November 2009 Commercial Paper:

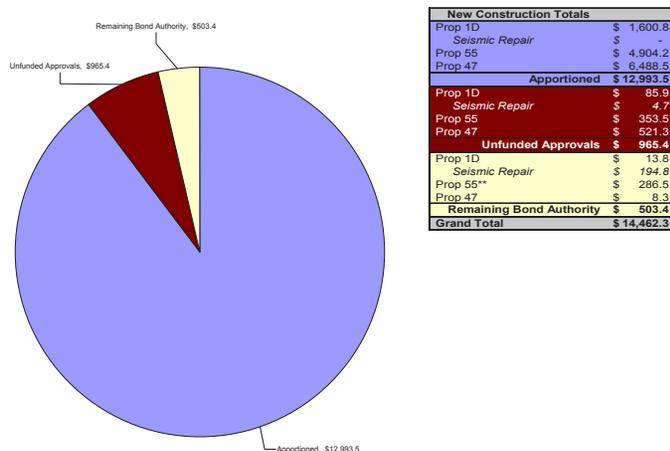
Total funds released: \$236.6 million of \$509.5 million — 46 percent
 Total projects: 100 projects have received funds

November 2009 Bond Sale and December 2009 Commercial Paper:

Total funds released: \$83.9 million of \$111.4 million — 75 percent
 Total projects: 33 projects have received funds

March 2010 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$978.8 million of \$1.351 billion — 72 percent
 Total projects: 217 projects have received funds



See [Status of Funds](#) for more details.

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Regulatory Update

High Performance Incentive Grant Funding

- Adopted with emergency status at the November 3, 2010 State Allocation Board (Board) meeting.
- Proposed to incorporate California Green Code requirements in the School Facility Program regulations for High Performance Incentive grants.
- Public comment period ended November 17, 2010.

Priorities in School Construction Funding

- Adopted at the August 25, 2010 Board meeting.
- Proposed to provide the Board authority to set additional priority funding rounds as needed.
- Emergency effective date October 29, 2010.

One-Year Extension of General Site Development Grant

- Adopted at the June 23, 2010 Board meeting.
- Proposed to extend the grant until no later than January 1, 2012.
- Review process continues.

High Performance Incentive Grant Changes

- Adopted at the May 26, 2010 Board meeting.
- Proposed to amend the High Performance Incentive grant to promote greater participation in the program.
- Public comment period ends November 29, 2010.

Modernization Funding for Accessibility and Fire Code Requirements

- Adopted at the March 24, 2010 Board meeting.
- Proposed regulatory changes allow modernization "replacement of like-kind in new building areas" to have the same calculation options as all other Excessive Cost Hardship Grants for accessibility and fire code compliance costs.
- Effective date November 22, 2010.

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

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Implementation Committee Discussions

The following items were presented at the November 10, 2010 Implementation (IMP) Committee meeting:

School Facility Program grant augmentation for the Department of Industrial Relations' (DIR) Fee for labor compliance monitoring

Update on the DIR's "request to repeal" with the Office of Administrative Law the regulations that implemented DIR labor compliance monitoring requirements for school districts.

The DIR regulations were temporarily repealed on November 4, 2010. School districts may contact Bryan O'Dell at Bryan.Odell@dgs.ca.gov or Laurel Brode at Laurel.Brode@dgs.ca.gov with questions regarding how the regulation repeal impacts their construction projects. Please see the article "Labor Compliance Update- Suspension of Regulations" in this edition of Building Blocks for more information.

Overcrowding Relief Grant (ORG)

Continue discussion of the ORG Program.

A summary of the comments and suggestions for ORG program improvements provided by IMP Committee members and stakeholders at the October IMP meeting was discussed. This item will be presented at a future State Allocation Board meeting.

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OPSC Deadlines and Key Dates

Upcoming Meetings

State Allocation Board (Board) Meetings - [View Board calendar](#)

- December 15, 2010 (Wednesday) 2:00 p.m.
- January 26, 2010 (Wednesday) 4:00 p.m.

OPSC/DSA Pre-Board Meeting Forums

- December 15, 2010 (Wednesday) 9:30 a.m. State Capitol Room 126
- January 26, 2010 (Wednesday) 9:30 a.m.

Implementation Committee Meetings - [View IMP calendar](#)

- January 13, 2011 (Thursday) 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- February 10, 2011 (Thursday) 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Upcoming Deadlines

Career Technical Education Facilities Program

Cycle 2 Apportionments - Documents due:

- December 10, 2010

Energy Efficiency Grants

Submit Application for Funding (Form SAB 50-04):

- Now through April 1, 2011

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