

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
State Allocation Board Meeting, March 11, 2009

SEISMIC MITIGATION PROGRAM

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide an update on the Seismic Mitigation Program provided under Assembly Bill 127, Chapter 35, Statutes of 2006 (Perata/Nunez).

BACKGROUND

Assembly Bill (AB) 127 authorized up to \$199.5 million for seismic mitigation of school facilities that are the most vulnerable Category 2 buildings and pose an unacceptable risk of injury to students during a seismic event. Part of the criteria to meet the definition of the most vulnerable Category 2 buildings is to provide a structural engineer's report that demonstrates that the building has a potential for catastrophic collapse.

Only one school has applied for AB 127 seismic funding to date, although the Department of General Services, Division of the State Architect has identified approximately 36 buildings that may meet the criteria of the Most Vulnerable Category 2 buildings, absent the structural engineer's report as identified above.

As of December 17, 2008, the Pooled Money Investment Board halted all school construction funding indefinitely, including seismic mitigation funding, due to the State's inability to sell bonds.

DESCRIPTION

Due to the lack of participation in the seismic mitigation funding, the Secretary of State and the Consumer Services Agency has hosted several meetings which included the Executive Officer of the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC)/State Allocation Board (SAB), the Assistant Executive Officer of the SAB, the State Architect, the Department of General Services Executive Staff, the Seismic Safety Commission (SSC), and other seismic experts. The primary purpose of the meetings was to determine how to initiate participation in this program, at a time when the State is unable to sell bond funds.

On February 11, 2009, the OPSC presented a proposal for a pilot program to the SSC for the purpose of securing a \$200,000 grant to pay for structural engineering reports, at an estimated expense of \$7,000 to \$10,000 per facility. The pilot program would ensure consistent seismic evaluation to further the State's understanding of seismic risks, move a potential barrier to participation and enable the program to proceed while bond funding is frozen. The pilot program would continue to advance the seismic safety agenda and the critical need to proceed with seismic mitigation.

The proposal was approved by the SSC. The OPSC is currently drafting an interagency agreement to affect the transfer of funds. Upon execution of the agreement, the OPSC will contact districts with potentially eligible facilities to initiate the pilot project.

Additionally, the OPSC will be bringing forward a broader discussion item at the March 25, 2009 SAB meeting regarding the Seismic Mitigation Program structure in order to promote participation in the program.

RECOMMENDATION

Accept this report.