



FACILITY PLANNERS MEETING UPDATE
APRIL 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

CASH April Workshops

*Planning & Executing
Successful Summer
Projects: Maintenance,
Modernization, Energy &
Critical Construction
Projects Delivered in a
Compressed Time Frame*
4/25/17, Sacramento
4/28/17, Ontario

Save the Date!

CASH Fall Conference

10/18/17-10/20/17
The Duke Hotel, Newport
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UPDATE

Legislative Update

The pace in the Legislature is fast and furious right now, as most bills have their first policy committee hearing during the month of April. Bills with potential state fiscal implications must pass out of their policy committee by April 28, so this first test will identify what proposals will continue moving through the process in 2017. This is also the time when members begin to flesh out their “spot” bills, providing more specificity for bills that were introduced as placeholders in certain issue areas. There are a number of spot bills on school facilities issues, the most significant of which may be **AB 203 (O’Donnell)**, which is a spot bill to make changes to the School Facility Program. It is our understanding that Assembly Member O’Donnell would like to have this bill available to propose streamlining or other measures to make the program more efficient.

CASH is evaluating bills and developing positions to engage in the legislative process. Below is an update on some of the other themes that are emerging in 2017.

Water Quality

Drinking water quality in schools is a popular issue in the Legislature, as over twenty bills on this issue have been introduced this year. CASH supports efforts to ensure that students have access to high-quality, contaminant free drinking water, but is concerned about the increased cost and administrative complications that might result from some of these bills. Many of them are “spot” bills with little substantive content at this point, but others propose significant new requirements. The following are two examples of different approaches to addressing the problem:

AB 885 (Rubio) proposes to require all schools to retrofit and maintain water filters on all drinking and kitchen plumbing, testing water for lead (and reduces the threshold from 15 ppm to 1 ppm), and replacing plumbing that is found to be the source of exceeding the lead threshold. CASH is opposing this bill and working with the author to make improvements.

SB 210 (Leyva) requires that schools that do not meet the USEPA standard for lead close to drinking water sources provide alternative drinking water sources, prohibits water that does not meet USEPA standards from being provided at a school facility, and provides a priority for projects that have been tested and not met the USEPA standard submitted to the California Safe Drinking Water Act (\$9.5 million State Water Board grant program). CASH has not taken a position on this bill yet, but views it as a more rational approach to this issue.

Other water bills that CASH is engaging on include best design practices for storm water, retrofitting existing fountains with a spigot for filling water bottles, and a requirement that the SARC include an assessment of drinking water access points at each school site. We will have a more detailed analysis of these and other bills that may emerge in next month’s Facility Planners Update.



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Accountability and Local Bonds

There are a number of bills related to issues of accountability, transparency, and local bonds.

SB 7 (Moorlach) is sponsored by the California County Treasurers and Tax Collectors Association, and it would require greater specificity for the Proposition 39 (2000) project list, plus a master plan with cost estimates prior to placing a local bond on the ballot. CASH has adopted an oppose position because this bill unnecessarily limits the ability of school districts to be responsive to changing needs and priorities in their local communities.

AB 1253 (Cooper) attempts to address pay-to-play concerns by requiring the Citizens Oversight Committee to review the selection, conduct, and contributions of financial firms that provide local bond services. CASH opposes this bill because we believe the authority for Citizens Oversight Committees in existing statute is sufficient to ensure appropriate review of bond expenditures.

SB 348 (Leyva) would require information in the county voter information guide regarding the process for initiating a validation action for a special tax, including a school parcel tax. CASH has adopted an oppose position on this bill because we believe there is plenty of opportunity to challenge the legal merits of a special tax, and the bill would ultimately encourage voters to vote against school tax measures.

Energy

Energy continues to be a significant topic in the world of school facilities, and there are a number of measures that address energy issues. Most significant of these is **SB 518 (De Leon)**. This bill would extend the Proposition 39 energy efficiency funding program for an additional five years, providing funds for K-14 facilities through 2022-23. Details of the proposal and possible modifications to the program are still being developed, and we anticipate amendments prior to the bill's first hearing on April 18. CASH has adopted a support position on this bill because continued funding for school facilities in general and energy efficiency in particular would provide ongoing benefits, such as operational savings, for schools.

DIR Prevailing Wage Monitoring Program Proposed Updates

The Administration is proposing significant changes to the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) prevailing wage monitoring program. The proposed changes would be done through the budget process, and trailer bill language containing the Administration's proposal was recently made available. The proposal uses a "carrot and stick" approach aimed at improving compliance with contractor registration requirements. The "carrot" would provide some relief by raising the threshold of the program's applicability to \$25,000 for construction projects and \$15,000 for maintenance projects. The "stick" would mean increased penalties for contractors and subcontractors who fail to register correctly. It would also create new penalties for awarding bodies, meaning that a school district would now be liable for contractor non-compliance. Awarding bodies would be subject to a fine of \$100/day, up to \$10,000. Additionally, a school district's state facility funding could be jeopardized if the district is determined to be a "willful violator."



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The proposal is now being considered as part of the budget review process. The Assembly Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration heard the proposal on Tuesday, March 22. At that hearing, the contracting community expressed concerns that the proposal is overly punitive; this is a concern that CASH shares. The committee chair directed Department of Finance and DIR to work with stakeholders to address their concerns. CASH will engage in this process to provide our feedback.

OPSC Stakeholder Meeting – End Grant Agreement for the School Facility Program (SFP)

On Thursday, March 30, 2017, the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) held a stakeholder meeting in Sacramento to review the grant agreement for the School Facility Program (SFP). The meeting was scheduled to discuss and receive feedback on OPSC’s draft grant agreements for the SFP. OPSC is planning to receive stakeholder input and then take the item to the State Allocation Board (SAB) for its April agenda, scheduled for April 26, 2017.

This is a key document that needs to be completed before Proposition 51 funds become available to fund school districts projects. CASH’s broad goal on OPSC’s proposed front-end grant agreement is to ensure that the Grant Agreement and the Audit Guide are consistent with one another, so that districts understand the rules and expectations throughout the entire life of the project. Further, CASH is requesting concurrent adoption of the Administration’s trailer bill language by the date of the April SAB Board meeting. CASH believes that such coordination is necessary to allow for the establishment of clear expectations while facilitating swift implementation of Proposition 51. Joe Dixon, Tom Duffy and Ian Padilla attended the stakeholder meeting to represent CASH.

The substance of the meeting discussion was OPSC receiving and responding to stakeholder concerns. While the meeting included discussion of many significant policy and technical issues, the overarching concern expressed by stakeholders was to distinguish between what are *clarifications* to the existing process and what are *changes* to the existing process. In addition, stakeholders expressed concern that there has been insufficient time to provide quality input on the proposal, and requested additional opportunities to provide feedback. In response, OPSC staff stated that they are open to additional written input and would look into the possibility of another stakeholder meeting, but that they wanted to ensure they had adequate time to prepare the document for presentation at the April SAB meeting.

CDE Title 5 School Siting and Design Standards Review

The California Department of Education (CDE), School Facilities and Transportation Services Division is in the process of reviewing the school siting and design standards contained in the California Code of Regulations. To inform the update, CDE is hosting several stakeholder meetings over three months in venues across state to solicit informal input. Due to numerous requests by stakeholders for additional opportunities to provide input, the CDE has set a new deadline of April 28, 2017 to receive informal input (previously February 28, 2017).



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The next two sessions have been scheduled for the following dates, times and locations
(Register at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/fa/sf/whatsnew.asp>):

April 4, 2017

City of Fresno Council Chamber
2600 Fresno Street, Fresno, CA 93721
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

April 6, 2017

Towers at Riverwalk
Rooms Lemon, Lime and Orange
4210 Riverwalk Parkway, Riverside CA 92505
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

CASH Welcomes New Members

CASH would like to welcome the following new members (from October 20, 2016-January 19, 2017) to our organization:

School Districts

Bayshore Elem. SD
Chawanakee USD
El Monte City Elem. SD
Fruitvale Elem. SD
Little Lake City SD
Monroe Elem. SD
Reef-Sunset USD
Richgrove Elem. SD
West Sonoma Co. Un.
HSD

Charter Schools

High Tech High Charter
School

Associates

AP Architects
Architects Mosher Drew
ARMOR Construction Services, Inc.
Berliner Architects
Counsilman-Hunsaker
dRofus
fs3|Hodges
Harrington Design Associates, Inc.
Hollaender Mfg.
Interface
N|A|Z Building Program Advisors, LLC
nora systems, Inc.
Northern California Fire Protection Group
Nossaman, LLP
SmartWatt Energy, Inc.
WRNS Studio
USAir Conditioning Distributors
Venstar, Inc.



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Upcoming Networking Mixers

Join your fellow school facility professionals at a CASH networking mixer! These mixers are open to all school facilities professionals, no RSVP needed.

April 27, Fresno – Time and Location TBD

May 18, Palm Springs – Time and Location TBD

June 8, Oceanside – Time and Location TBD

September 21, Orange County – Time and Location TBD

Questions about the CASH mixers? Please contact Mike Vail at (949) 498-8993 or mgvailsancllemente@sbcglobal.net.

For the latest updates on important matters affecting school facilities, be sure to check the *CASH Register* news website, www.cashfacilitiesnews.org.

CASH is on Facebook! Click the Facebook link on the CASH homepage to connect with us.
You can also follow us on Twitter at @CASHFacilities.