



UPCOMING EVENTS

**CASH Complimentary
Webinar Series**

A Briefing from
Sacramento: Where the
Legislature and Governor
are Taking California in the
Pandemic

Thursday, May 7, 2020

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

Visit the CASH website
(www.cashnet.org) for
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UPDATE

COVID-19: The Governor's Vision

Governor Newsom continues to provide daily press events to update the public and press on the state's COVID-19 response. Two recent updates are significant to the school facilities community:

Redrawing Floor Plans – On April 14, the Governor laid out a framework and identified six indicators that will be used to determine when to modify the stay-at-home order. One indicator is “supporting physical distancing at schools and businesses,” which the Governor termed “redrawing floor plans.” He explained that we may need to “stagger” the times that students come in to school, or participate in activities like physical education and recess.

Other indicators include factors such as our capacity to test for the virus, and the ability of the health system to support future surges.

Reopening Schools and Businesses – On April 28, the Governor laid out a four-phase approach to lift the stay-at-home order and reopen businesses, schools, and the economy. He did not provide specific timelines, but said we are weeks, not months, away from making “meaningful progress” on reopening schools and businesses (“Phase 2”), due to stabilization of infections and hospitalizations.

The Governor expressed great concern about learning loss due to the physical closure of schools, and the challenges of distance learning. Because of this, he indicated that the state is contemplating an earlier start to the 2020-21 school year, possibly July or August. In this scenario, schools would open with adaptations and modifications to ensure students and staff are protected. He did not provide any detail of what this would look like.

This “Phase 2” approach would also include opening some curbside retail, childcare, manufacturing, offices where teleworking is not possible, and public spaces such as parks and trails. After that, higher-risk businesses (such as personal care services) and more crowded venues would re-open in future phases.

The state and local responses and guidance on this situation change daily, and we don't yet know the likelihood of either of these proposals and how they will practically affect schools. The Legislature plays an important role in accountability and oversight of the Administration, and they are pursuing their own work in response to COVID-19. CASH will continue to monitor and keep our members updated as the situation evolves.

Legislating Under Quarantine

The Legislature plays an important role in accountability and oversight of the Administration, and they are pursuing their own work in response to COVID-19. Both houses of the Legislature recessed on March 20th, and are making different plans for how to return to work while the stay-at-home order is in place.

The Assembly—which determined that it is unconstitutional for legislators to vote remotely—will return on May 4th and commence an abridged schedule in which every policy committee will meet once during the following three weeks. The Speaker has given committee chairs direction to use their discretion and limit hearings to only those bills pertaining to the



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pandemic response. Only the two largest hearing rooms and the Assembly Chamber will host hearings in order to facilitate physical distancing. Instead of hearing rooms rapidly turning over between committees, rooms will host only one hearing per day, to allow time for rooms to be sanitized. Members are permitted to have only one staff member in the Capitol, and those entering the building will have their temperatures taken at the door.

The Senate—which passed a resolution affirming its ability to vote remotely—has yet to release a schedule of hearing dates or noticed bills for hearing, but it is expected to reconvene on May 11th.

Bills to Watch

Throughout the legislative recess, legislators received successively restrictive guidance on the number of bills they would be allowed to advance, until leaders in both houses indicated that they wanted members to only advance bills pertaining to the most critical state priorities, including the COVID-19 crisis, disaster emergency response, homelessness and affordable housing, and sunset extensions.

Some authors have already pulled their bills from consideration this year so that they can focus on the top priorities. Below is an update on a selection of bills. We do not know if these bills will meet the topic threshold to be considered in 2020, unless otherwise noted.

- **AB 2088 (O'Donnell)** retires the use of the number “13” for naming statewide ballot measures. CASH supports this bill, due to the confusion that the number may cause for voters.
- **AB 2186 (Grayson)** eliminates the requirement for local agencies, including schools, to withhold a minimum of 5% of the contract price for retention. CASH opposes the bill, as the mandatory retention is an important tool used to protect public funds in the event of performance issues. Additionally, we are concerned that this bill would negatively impact a school district's ability to withhold additional retention amounts for substantially complex projects. *The author has pulled this bill from consideration and it will not move forward in 2020.*
- **AB 2184 (O'Donnell)** provides an additional option for K-12 projects using the Design-Build delivery method. CASH supports the bill. AB 2184 allows Design-Build projects to use additional minimum factors in their best value selection criteria (design cost, general conditions, overhead, and profit as a component of project price). Under this option, subcontracts would be subject to an “open book” evaluation by the school district, providing additional flexibility to determine the project's final contract price closer to construction.
- **AB 2987 (Flora)** provides an option to noticing requirements for CUPCCAA projects. Current law requires local agencies, including schools, to provide notice of CUPCCAA formal bid projects over \$200,000 in a newspaper of general circulation at least 14 days before the date of bid opening. This bill would allow a local agency to publish this notice inviting formal bids electronically on its website at least 14 days before bid opening, in lieu of the newspaper notice requirement. If the agency chooses this option, it is still required to notify construction trade journals at least 15 days in advance of the bid opening. CASH supports the bill, which could serve as a pilot project for possibly expanding the option beyond CUPCCAA projects in the future.

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Budgeting Under Quarantine

The Department of Finance has indicated that it expects to meet the deadline to deliver the May Revision to the Governor's Proposed Budget on or by May 14th. The Assembly has indicated that it will commence budget hearings after the conclusion of policy committee hearings, which could mean May 22nd or May 26th. The Senate has not released information about its budget review process, but it could begin any time after the release of the May Revision.

The expectation is that the Administration will present a "workload" budget meaning the previous year's expenditure levels will generally continue. This is due to the fact that income tax deadlines were extended and the state won't be able to assess the extent of the anticipated economic decline until receipts are in. Although the Governor could call a special session in the Fall, it is anticipated that the Legislature will approve a workload budget for 2020-21 by the June 15th deadline, and revisit the budget before they adjourn in August to make adjustments based on a clearer fiscal information. Barring a miracle cure for COVID-19, the economic picture is expected to deteriorate for the remainder of the calendar year.

CASH is advocating that any redirected facilities funds be allocated towards helping schools provide internet access, clean and sanitize facilities, or decrease contact with high-touch surfaces. We will also advocate for Prop. 51 funds to be apportioned on an expedited timeline in order to stimulate the economy.

CASH Maintenance Network Developing Cleaning/Disinfecting Resource

The CASH Board of Directors has asked the CASH Maintenance Network (CMN) to develop a resource on cleaning and disinfecting for school M&O and facility departments as state and school leaders contemplate possibly opening schools for summer sessions to address learning loss, as well as the fall school session. The guidance document will focus on practical information to ensure schools are clean, safe and healthy. More information coming soon.

Indoor Air Quality/Ventilation and Energy Resiliency

The CASH Maintenance Network (CMN) and the School Energy Coalition (SEC) co-sponsored a two-day Web-Shop on Indoor Air Quality/Ventilation/Acceptance Testing, as well as how energy efficiency and M&O projects are often closely related and can be used to build energy resiliency. The CMN continues to work on both of these important policy issues related to health and safety and disaster preparedness.

Thank You to Our Virtual Event Sponsors!

CASH has been holding weekly free virtual events to inform and educate our members on best practices on Coronavirus issues related to school facilities and maintenance. We will continue to do this for the duration of this moment and would like to thank the following associate members for their generous sponsorship of these events:



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For more information on weekly events, please visit the CASH website at www.cashnet.org. If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact Greg Golik at ggolik@m-w-h.com or (916) 216-9390.

Important Message Regarding the CASH 42nd Annual Conference on School Facilities

Julie Arthur, CASH Chair, Palm Springs USD
Jeff Becker, CASH Vice Chair and Annual Conference Planning Committee Chair, Office of the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools

First and foremost, we hope that you and your families are safe and well during the Coronavirus crisis. CASH has been providing you with weekly webinars to ensure that we serve our members with the latest and best information to help school districts and county offices of education support clean, healthy and safe facilities for our kids, parents and teachers when they return to school.

The purpose of this message is to inform you of a change in location and dates for our 2021 CASH Annual Conference on School Facilities, originally scheduled to be held in Sacramento on February 23-26. As you may be aware, the Sacramento Convention Center is undergoing a renovation and is due to reopen in late 2020. While the construction has been deemed essential and work continues on the site, the CASH Board of Directors has made a determination to move the Conference out of Sacramento.

The CASH 42nd Annual Conference on School Facilities will now be held March 1-3, 2021 in Palm Springs, California. While this was not an easy decision to make, it is the right one to ensure that our attendees are in an environment that will support a high-quality conference experience! We look forward to returning to Sacramento in future years. As the Annual Conference planning progresses, we will remain flexible in response to the ever-evolving COVID-19 situation, evaluating options that ensure the safety of our attendees while facilitating great educational and networking opportunities.

Please look for registration and exhibitor/sponsor information in the Fall. For those of you who pre-purchased your exhibit space in February 2020, CASH staff will be contacting you to ensure placement of your booth in the new location. We look forward to seeing you in Palm Springs in March of 2021, if not before.

Networking Mixers

All CASH Networking Mixers have been postponed until further notice.

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For the latest updates on important matters affecting school facilities, visit www.cashnet.org. Connect with CASH on Facebook or follow us on Twitter: @CASHFacilities.