C.A.S.H. would be advocating for a school bond in 2012. The February issue focused on the highlights of the successful 33rd Annual C.A.S.H. Conference and did not include a Message from the Chair, so this month I will focus on where we are with advocacy for a school bond, an update of what C.A.S.H. is doing on the issue of seismic safety and some exciting news about a new educational event – Local School Financing Emporium!

**School Facility Program and State Bond**

In my remarks to the C.A.S.H. membership at the C.A.S.H. Annual Conference, I stated that C.A.S.H. has communicated with the Governor and Legislative leaders to advocate for a 2012 school bond, as well as conducted statewide polling that indicates strong public support for a statewide school bond. I concluded my remarks about C.A.S.H.’s school bond campaign by challenging everyone in the room to walk over to the Capitol and talk to their legislators about what school bonds can do for the state. I asked those in attendance to deliver the same message that I am asking all C.A.S.H. members to deliver to state decision-makers – school construction meets student needs, school construction projects create jobs, jobs fuel the economy, and a school bond is an economic engine for California.

C.A.S.H. continues to advocate for a statewide school bond in 2012 by communicating this message to state decision-makers. Specifically, in addition to demonstrating the need for funding and its cumulative effects on California’s economy, we have highlighted information from our polling data that indicates that placing a school bond on the November 2012 ballot would help, not hurt, the Governor’s tax proposal.

Furthermore, for School Facility Program (SFP) projects accepted beyond current bond authority, C.A.S.H. is in favor of an “Approved but Unfunded” list rather than a less certain “Workload” list. During the SAB Implementation Committee’s discussion of this issue, I argued that maintaining the traditional “Approved but Unfunded” list would provide a higher level of certainty at the local school district and community level. I also distributed a letter summarizing our position on this critical issue. The consensus of school district representatives on the Implementation Committee was a clear preference for continuing with the “Approved but Unfunded” list. Additionally, C.A.S.H. has advocated for inclusion of funding for school facilities projects in the $1.3 billion bond sale that the State Treasurer’s Office (STO) has scheduled for April 2012.

**Seismic Safety**

Seismic safety and schools continue to be a significant issue for the school facilities community. In December 2011 the Bureau of State Audits (BSA) issued a report on the Division of the State Architect (DSA) at the request of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.
in response to a series of newspaper articles. DSA has indicated that they have already begun implementation of various changes and activities in response to the audit with a focus on the close-out process.

In addition, Senator Ellen Corbett had introduced SB 1271, which would require the Department of General Services (DGS) to convene a working group to develop and adopt standards for seismic safety of schools. C.A.S.H. supported the bill when it was heard in the Senate Education Committee, but we recommended that the bill be amended to include a school district representative, a school engineer, and a school architect on the working group to ensure that the school facility practitioner's perspective is represented.

Senator Corbett has scheduled a meeting of the Senate Select Committee on Earthquake Preparedness entitled “Seismic Safety Standards: California Public Schools and Construction Oversight” on April 20th (see upper right for details). The Committee will have an in-depth discussion of issues raised in BSA’s audit, and this conversation will likely inform the content of SB 1271 going forward. C.A.S.H. has been asked to testify at the hearing.

Local School Financing Emporiums
I am pleased to announce that C.A.S.H. will hold two Local School Financing Emporiums this spring. These are venues where school districts and county offices of education can go FREE of charge and get information about local school financing options. The first part of the session will be a primer on local financing, with the second half being a trade show where districts can get information and receive proposals from vendors right on the spot. These Emporiums will be held on May 10 at the Sacramento Convention Center and May 15 at the Radisson Hotel in Ontario. I would like to thank the following associate member sponsors for helping to make this event free to school districts and county offices of education:

• Keygent
• Piper Jaffray
• Stone & Youngberg
• TBWB Strategies/Godbe Research
• Jones Hall

If you are a school district or county office that would like to attend for FREE, or an organization that provides local financing services and would like to be a part of the trade show, please go to the C.A.S.H. website at www.cashnet.org.

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