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February 10, 2011

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

This letter is to ensure that you have adequate and timely information regarding the powerful economic stimulus tool immediately available for use by your new administration. That tool is the School Facility Program (SFP) and the backlog of school construction projects awaiting state bond funds to commence construction.

At this time, approximately \$1.5 billion in school construction projects could be funded and under contract within 90 days through the State Allocation Board's (SAB) "Priority Funding Program." Through this highly successful program, the SAB apportioned a combined total of \$1.8 billion to fund 470 school projects in August and December 2010, which are to be under contract within the 90 day period. Under existing statute, school districts are given a period of 18 months from the date of apportionment to enter a contract for a construction project; the SAB conceived of the idea of incentivizing school districts and their boards of education to commit to a vastly shortened timeframe to get to construction if guaranteed that state bond funding would be available upon the signing of contracts locally.

In light of the state's need to create jobs and the demonstrated success of the Priority Funding Program, the Coalition for Adequate School Housing (C.A.S.H.) requests that your administration provide direction to continue supporting the Priority Funding Program through the sale of state school construction bonds in March 2011. We have communicated our continuing commitment to support the Priority Funding Program to the State Allocation Board and now do so to you as Governor. The projects that wait funding have been fully approved by each State agency and require only a guarantee of funding by way of an apportionment by the SAB to enter a construction contract.

Finally, as has been demonstrated in the recent past each \$1 million of school construction funding created 16 new jobs. School construction produces jobs; we therefore strongly urge you to support a bond sale in March.

Sincerely,

Bill Savidge, Chair

Cathy Allen, Chair-Elect