

Message From The Chair



Bill Savidge, C.A.S.H. Chair

In a continuing effort to ensure that our members are aware of current or emerging issues that are significant for the school facilities community, last month the Message from the Chair focused on the issue of how California's cash flow crisis has resulted in uncertainty concerning when or how much the State will borrow in long term state bonds to replenish state infrastructure

OPSC's Plan Verification Team

funds. This broad issue has been and will continue to be a primary concern for C.A.S.H. because it affects our entire membership in one way or another.

This month I will focus on a more technical issue – a *Back to Basics* issue, if you will – that broadly impacts nearly all school districts in California planning to build new schools or add facilities to existing school sites through the School Facility Program (SFP): the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) Plan Verification Team (PVT) and its review of project plans submitted for state funding.


The PVT reviews applications for funding, approved construction plans and specifications by the Division of the State Architect (DSA) and the California Department of Education, off-site plans for work required by local entities and cost estimates to verify the grant amounts for service site development, off-site development and utilities.

The PVT has done outreach to school districts, architects, cost-estimators and anyone involved in helping

districts obtain funding under the SFP. In fact, C.A.S.H. collaborated with the PVT earlier this summer to reach out to all C.A.S.H. members with a reminder of the PVT's role in the funding process.

The PVT's primary goal is to assist school districts in identifying project costs related to site development that would be eligible for funding under the SFP. Part of this goal includes working closely with district architects on submitting sufficiently detailed cost estimates in ways that would streamline PVT review. The PVT also works with districts to identify construction costs that may be eligible for additional grants and specify the necessary documentation to support these funding requests.

Through the recent outreach efforts by the PVT, the OPSC is hoping to open a better channel of communication with school districts, architects, and others who work with them to make the PVT review more efficient.

C.A.S.H. appreciates the PVT's outreach to school districts, and we will work with them to help them achieve their goal of streamlining the review process for all involved. Specifically, C.A.S.H. is interested in ensuring that school districts are fully aware of how the PVT process can assist them, and what options they have throughout the process. To this end, C.A.S.H. and OPSC will conduct a "Plan Verification Team Overview" workshop in **December 2009**, which I encourage you to attend. The workshops will be held December 8 in Sacramento and December 11 in Ontario. Watch for registration information to be sent to you soon. 



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The CASH Register solicits articles on school facility-related topics from the membership. If you are interested in submitting an article, please send it or a letter of inquiry to: Editor, CASH Register editorial office, 1130 K Street - Suite 210, Sacramento, CA 95814. Sorry, we are unable to return or acknowledge unpublished manuscripts. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Coalition for Adequate School Housing, its board, staff or general membership.