Message From The Chair

Cathy Allen, C.A.S.H. Chair

C.A.S.H. Joins Effort to Develop Schools of the Future

As I begin my tenure as chair of C.A.S.H., I thank our members and fellow Board of Directors for entrusting me to lead our organization for the next two years. I accept this responsibility with great humility and excitement, and look forward to working with you to serve the school children of California.

In my first official Message from the Chair, I highlight the State Superintendent of Public Instruction’s Schools of the Future Initiative that was introduced to us by Superintendent Torlakson during his presentation at our annual conference in late February. This initiative has the potential to improve how California schools are built and funded going forward – and I am pleased that C.A.S.H. will be a part of this important endeavor.

Superintendent Torlakson has convened a large and diverse group of professionals and practitioners representing school districts, state agencies, labor and the business community to propose and discuss ideas to improve the current School Facility Program (SFP) and envision the schools of the future, maintaining a focus on efficiencies in building, delivering and funding.

He has appointed Cesar Diaz (Government Relations Director for the State Construction and Building Trades Council) and Steve Rogers (President of the Board of the San Mateo Union High School District) as co-chairs of this effort. The Initiative is organized into the following subcommittees:

- Funding and Governance
- Site Selection and Community Impact
- Modernization
- Education Impact and Design
- Financing
- Renewable Energy
- High Efficiency Schools
- Grid Neutral Schools

The subcommittees are tasked with developing substantive policy recommendations for the Superintendent.

I was pleased to be invited to participate in the “Schools of the Future Initiative” to represent C.A.S.H., and currently serve on the Funding and Governance Subcommittee, chaired by C.A.S.H. Immediate Past Chair Bill Savidge. The Modernization Subcommittee is chaired by former C.A.S.H. Chair Terry Bradley and Mamie Starr, past Chair of C.A.S.H., is co-chair of the Site Selection and Community Impact Subcommittee. At the first meeting of the Initiative on March 4th, the Superintendent challenged the group to reflect on the needs of students and schools, and to think beyond the current parameters and assumptions of the current SFP. The goal is to develop recommendations by June 1.

C.A.S.H. has long sought both short-term and long-term improvements to the current SFP to streamline the funding and state oversight process to ensure that our members are able to continue to build and modernize schools in a timely and efficient manner. We hope this effort will be an impetus for further discussions about

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a statewide school bond in 2012. On behalf of the C.A.S.H. Board and members, I would like to thank Superintendent Torlakson and his staff for initiating this effort to bring stakeholders to the table to work collaboratively to improve school construction and funding, and for including C.A.S.H. practitioners in this important effort.

Finally, as the chair of C.A.S.H., I look forward to working with you to create the 21st century learning environments that will allow California students to compete with the best students in the world. Together, we can begin building the schools of the future today.