



UPCOMING EVENTS

CASH Web-Shop

Early Childhood Education
and Pre-Kindergarten: A
Continuum of Service to
Children and Parents
September 7, 2023

**CASH Fall Conference &
Pre-Conference
Workshop**

October 11-13, 2023
*Hyatt Regency Newport
Beach*

**45th Annual Conference
on School Facilities**

*February 28 – March 1,
2024*
*Sacramento SAFE Credit
Union Convention Center*

Visit the CASH website
(www.cashnet.org) for
more information and to
register for these events!

UPDATE

Bond Bill Clears Fiscal Committee

On Friday, September 1, 2023, the Senate Committee on Appropriations took action to make AB 247 (Muratsuchi, Fong M, Wilson), the *Transitional Kindergarten Through Community College Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2024*, a two-year bill. This is in keeping with the intention of the authors to “park” the bill to allow for time to negotiate with the Senate and the Governor. Two-year bills are bills that are introduced in the first year of Session (the odd-numbered year) which are carried over to the second year of the Session (the even-numbered year).

Even though AB 247 does not yet contain language specifying the election date, November 2024 is now effectively the only option. CASH supports a November election date, given the historical success of state school bonds on General Election ballots.

The Assembly Committee on Appropriations also acted on September 1 to make SB 28 (Glazer) the *Public Preschool, K–12, and College Health and Safety Bond Act of 2024* a two-year bill. This sets the stage for future negotiations.

SAB Acts on Construction Cost Index Issue

At its August 23 meeting, the State Allocation Board (Board) acted on an issue related to CASH litigation. The question was whether to apply the Construction Cost Index (CCI) adjustment to 129 projects worth \$368 million. In 2012, the projects had been placed on the Unfunded List; they were processed by the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) and approved by the Board but were outside existing bond authority. Voters approved state school bond Proposition 51 in 2016, and the projects subsequently received apportionments *without* the CCI index on September 6, 2017. CASH filed a lawsuit against this action; after a series of court decisions, the Appellate Court directed the Board to place the matter on its agenda and either affirm or modify the decision. OPSC distributed a preliminary report on July 14 and took public comment through August 1. Fourteen school districts provided comments challenging the SAB’s denial of the CCI increase.

At the meeting, CASH leaders, including Chair Alan Reising, urged the Board not to affirm its prior action. With very little discussion, the Board passed a motion adopting the “Supplemental Report” presented by OPSC staff to address the prior decision not to provide the CCI increase. The vote was 7-1 to adopt the report, with Assembly Member Muratsuchi voting “No.”

SB 499 (Menjivar) Requiring an Extreme Heat Action Plan for K-12 Schools Held in Committee

On Friday, September 1, 2023, SB 499 (Menjivar) was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 499 would have required K-12 schools to have an Extreme Heat Action Plan, as well as prohibit schools from using ‘high heat’ surfaces such as concrete, asphalt,



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COUNTY OFFICE FACILITY PLANNERS
MEETING UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2023

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artificial turf, and playground impact material; instead, the bill requires the use of ‘low heat’ organic materials, such as grass, etc.

While CASH recognizes that consideration of extreme heat mitigation should be part of a school’s facility, maintenance and emergency plan, CASH strongly opposed SB 499’s complicated top-down approach to heat mitigation on school sites. The bill did not include funding to address the cost impacts to schools or coordinate with existing state requirements related to access compliance (DSA), playground safety (federal and state requirements), drought mitigation (MWELo), planting trees (CalGreen Code), and other existing state requirements.

CASH worked in a coalition with other statewide education associations to oppose SB 499 based on its unfunded cost impact to schools and its unwieldy regulatory structure. CASH did a legislative Call-to-Action for school districts to oppose SB 499, and we would like to thank the schools that sent in oppose letters to help highlight the negative impact that the bill would have on school facility and maintenance departments.

While SB 499 will not move forward this year, the issue of extreme heat mitigation on school sites will continue to be a popular public policy idea, and we expect discussions to continue. CASH would not be surprised if similar legislation is introduced next year, or a similar concept appears in other state budget and agency proposals. CASH will continue to engage with decision-makers and stakeholders to represent the school facility practitioner’s perspective.

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