



*Report on the*

# **Disability Access and Education Revolving Fund 2014**



**State of California  
Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor**

**Government Operations Agency  
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**Department of General Services  
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**BACKGROUND**

Chapter 383, Statutes of 2012 (SB 1186 - Steinberg and Dutton) requires any applicant for a local business license or equivalent to pay an additional one dollar fee to the local government that issued the business license. Local governments must submit 30 percent of the fee revenue to the Division of the State Architect (State Architect) for deposit into the Disability Access and Education Revolving Fund (Fund).

The purpose of the Fund is to provide increased compliance with state and federal accessibility requirements by:

- Increasing the number of certified access specialists (CASp)
- Increasing State Architect oversight of the CASp program
- Expanding educational and outreach efforts for compliance with accessibility requirements

SB 1186 added Government Code Section 4470(c) which requires the State Architect to submit an annual report for the previous calendar year that identifies the amounts of funds transmitted to the State Architect and moneys expended from the Fund. The State Architect must report:

- Total fees transmitted to the Fund by local governments during the previous calendar year
- Total Fund resources spent on:
  - Administrative services
  - Moderating certification and examination fees for the CASp program
  - Establishing oversight of the CASp program
  - Developing and disseminating educational materials to facilitate compliance with state and federal access requirements

**TOTAL FEES TRANSMITTED TO THE FUND**

In calendar year 2013, the State Architect received a total of \$386,558.70 from local governments. The State Architect received Fund transmittals from the ten largest cities in California, except the City of Los Angeles. The State Architect continues to work with the City of Los Angeles to apprise them of SB 1186 requirements. The State Architect expects Fund transmittals to increase in 2014 due to increased awareness of SB 1186 by local governments. Also, many business license submittals for 2013 had already been submitted to respective local governments prior to the SB 1186 implementation date of January 1, 2013.

## **FUND RESOURCES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BY THE STATE ARCHITECT**

The State Architect spent \$63,165.56 of Fund resources for administrative services in 2013. Primary administrative services included development and operation of fee collection system and related instruction; outreach; forms development; and technical guidance.

## **FUND RESOURCES USED TO MODERATE CASp CERTIFICATION AND EXAMINATION FEES**

The expenditure of \$25,459.84 was used for analysis and development of the CASp fee structure. Fees were lowered for individuals who possess specific professional credentials that demonstrate the required level of qualifications. It is expected that a modified fee structure will attract an increased number of CASp applicants.

## **FUND RESOURCES USED TO INCREASE OVERSIGHT OF THE CASp PROGRAM**

The State Architect spent \$143,037.45 of Fund resources to increase oversight of the CASp program. Major items included regulations and procedures development to address CASp conduct, discipline, and audits. Procedures were also developed to provide for customer feedback and concerns.

## **FUND RESOURCES USED FOR EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

The amount of \$85,678.12 was used for education and outreach purposes. In 2013, an emphasis was placed on increasing CASp participation; this included targeted outreach to design professionals, building officials, and the construction industry. Methods and tools developed included website and social media; constituent identification; and targeted mailing lists. Additionally, the State Architect provided technical assistance to local governments and affected constituent groups.

## **OTHER STATE ARCHITECT USE OF FUND RESOURCES**

The State Architect also used \$69,217.73 from the Fund to review and restructure the CASp certification examination. The goal of this effort was to ensure the appropriate level of difficulty to maintain the requisite quality standards while also providing fairness. It is expected that the new two-part CASp certification examination will lead to an increased number of future candidates and qualified CASps.