



**ALEX PADILLA** | SECRETARY OF STATE | STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
1500 11<sup>th</sup> Street, 6th floor | Sacramento, CA 95814 | Tel 916.653.7244 | Fax 916.653.4620 | [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov)

January 15, 2020

The Honorable Holly J. Mitchell, Chair  
Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 553  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2206  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez, Chair  
Assembly Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Chairpersons Mitchell, Portantino, and Gonzalez:

Attached is my office's quarterly report on the progress of the CAL-ACCESS Replacement System Project, in accordance with Government Code section 84602(c). Previous reports are posted on the Secretary of State's office website at [www.sos.ca.gov/administration/agency-reports/cal-access-replacement-project-cars-agency-reports](http://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/agency-reports/cal-access-replacement-project-cars-agency-reports). If you have any questions about this report, please feel free to contact me at (916) 653-7244, or have your staff contact my Chief of Legislative Affairs, Robert Abelon at (916) 695-1647.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Padilla".

Alex Padilla  
Secretary of State

Attachment

## **Introduction**

In September of 2016, the Governor signed into law Senate Bill (SB) 1349, the Political Reform Act of 1974: Secretary of State: online filing and disclosure system. The bill requires the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), to develop and certify for public use an online filing and disclosure system for campaign statements and reports that provides public disclosure of campaign finance and lobbying information in a user-friendly, easily understandable format.

The law calls for the Secretary of State to submit a report to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the fiscal committees of the Legislature on or before December 31, 2017, and on or before every April 15, July 15, October 15, and January 15 thereafter, that certifies whether changes are anticipated to the project's scope, schedule, or budget and any problem that is considered a risk to the project's completion according to the approved project schedule and budget.

## **Background**

The California Automated Lobbyist and Campaign Contribution and Expenditure Search System (CAL-ACCESS) was developed to provide greater public access to campaign contribution and expenditure data, and state lobbying financial activity. CAL-ACCESS was developed to respond to the objectives of the Online Disclosure Act, added to the Political Reform Act of 1974 (PRA) by Ch 866, Stats of 1997. CAL-ACCESS is the public's window into California's campaign disclosure and lobbying financial activity, providing financial information supplied by state candidates, donors, lobbyists, lobbyist employers, and others.

CAL-ACCESS was deployed in June 2000, and, since that time, nearly two (2) million filings have been submitted by filers. However, CAL-ACCESS is an old and fragile system that is at the end of life and operating on an unsupported information technology platform. The current system design has technological restrictions that prevent it from being modified or updated. It lacks data display and reporting features that are commonly used for data analytics.

CAL-ACCESS users and stakeholder groups have identified the following business problems:

- Program business operations are negatively affected by the current system design.
- Program business operations are at risk due to an old, unsupported information technology platform.
- The Secretary of State's Political Reform Division (PRD) and stakeholders have limited information access and reporting capabilities.

SB 1349 requires the Secretary of State (SOS) to implement a CAL-ACCESS Replacement System to address the shortcomings and vulnerabilities of the current system. The original implementation date for the new CAL-ACCESS as set forth in SB 1349 was December 2019. SB 84, signed by the Governor on June 27, 2019, extends the implementation date to February 2021.

## **CAL-ACCESS Replacement System Project Status – January 2020**

Below is a summary of the Secretary of State's efforts on the CAL-ACCESS Replacement System (CRAS) project for this reporting period.

### ***New System Design, Development and Testing***

The CARS project team continued Phase II System Requirement Confirmation, Architecture and Design and Phase III System Development, Testing and Deployment tasks and activities.

The System Integrator (SI) team, working in collaboration with the SOS Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and other Project Team members, completed its twelfth initial system development iteration. The SI has provided a list of features and defects that are currently outstanding. The SI team submitted its System Detailed Requirements Traceability Matrix deliverable, which was rejected by the Secretary of State as this deliverable did not meet contractual requirements.

The project team has initiated meetings with a Stakeholders Input Group (SIG), comprised representatives of the California Political Treasurers Association and the California Political Attorneys Association, to gather feedback on the envisioned new system functions and features. The project team conducted ongoing meetings with the CAL-ACCESS software vendors and service providers. The Secretary of State developed and shared with the vendors draft regulations for software providers who wish to be certified to electronically file with the new CAL-ACCESS. The Organizational Change Management (OCM) Team continued developing draft business process diagrams for the new CAL-ACCESS. The OCM team continued sending CARS newsletters to internal and external stakeholders.

The Data Migration Team continued working with the Secretary of State SMEs and the SI Team on mapping legacy CAL-ACCESS data elements to the new system and completed 98% of initial mapping. The Data Migration Team continued planning for extraction, transfer, and load of the legacy data into the new system.

The CARS Testing Team, in collaboration with the Secretary of State SMEs, continued functional testing for the new system and developing detailed test scenarios for the SOS User Acceptance Testing (UAT) of the new CAL-ACCESS application. The SOS IT SMEs continued code review of the new CAL-ACCESS application source code and provided findings to the CARS SI.

### **Technology Update**

The CARS SI has performed a detailed assessment of its current proposed solution and has indicated that the current proposed solution for developing and implementing the new CAL-ACCESS application is not viable. The Secretary of State is in conversation with the vendor's senior management about their plan to remediate the issues and find viable alternatives for CAL-ACCESS implementation within the existing budget and statutory timeline.

## **Implementation Plan**

The CARS SI continues to develop an updated schedule for the CAL-ACCESS implementation. Below is the currently anticipated high-level schedule for the CAL-ACCESS Replacement System design, development and implementation activities.

<b>Project Stages</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Status</b>
Alternatives Analysis	Complete Alternatives Analysis	11/2016	Complete
Solution Development	Refine Business Requirements and initiate project management and procurement plans (data governance; communications; issue/risk management; project; and contract management.)	12/2016 – 07/2017	Complete
	Release Request for Solicitation	08/2017	Complete
Project Readiness and Approval	Evaluate final Vendor responses	2/2018 - 4/2018	Complete
	Award Contract	5/2018	Complete
Initialization and Planning	Develop project plans and Integrated Project Schedule	6/2018 – 3/2019	Complete
Design Development & Implementation	Requirements Validation	8/2018 – 12/2018	Complete
	Design and Development	11/2018 – 8/2020	In progress
	Training and Testing	2/2020 – 11/2020	
	Implementation	12/2020 - 2/2021	
Maintenance and Operations	First Year Operation and Closeout	3/2021 - 2/2022	