



SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

April 15, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Skinner 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 Skinner, 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. 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, Erric Garris, at (916) 695-1686.

Sincerely,

Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.
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 (SOS), 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.

CAL-ACCESS Replacement System Project Status – April 2021

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

Progress December 2020 through April 2021

The CARS Project made significant progress this past quarter:

- Release 1 delivered on schedule (February 28) and included successful implementation of the production environment utilizing the new project technology – Salesforce, Mulesoft and Heroku. The project continued rapid development resulting in the development of approximately 84% of the system during this reporting period.
- During this quarter, the project team provided updates and feedback sessions to the following select stakeholders:
 - Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC)
 - Stakeholder Interest Group (SIG) comprised of California Political Treasurers and California Political Attorneys representatives, also the Good Government and IGA groups.

Additionally, the project team met with and demonstrated the system for select legislative staff during this reporting period.

Scope, Schedule and Budget

Scope: No new scope has been added to the project.

Schedule: There are no changes to the scheduled releases.

The scheduled releases and general functionality are:

Release 1 – 2/28/21: Filer Registration, Disclosure, Correspondence, Financial Transactions Reporting, and more.

Release 2 – 4/30/21: Financial Transactions, API functionality, E530 form and more.

Release 3 – 6/30/21: Public Access, Notifications, Financial Transactions, and more. Public access and system certification.

Budget:

The original estimation for maintenance and operation (M&O) was developed prior to the project relaunch. As we reported in our October 2020 report, the team was conducting analysis to determine the M&O funding requirement utilizing the new Salesforce platform. The SOS submitted documentation to the Legislature, Department of Finance and the Department of Technology during this quarter to address requirements for a budget change.

Implementation Plan

The schedule for the CAL-ACCESS implementation below is the current high-level schedule for the design, development and implementation activities.

Project Stages	Milestone	Dates	Status
Design Development & Implementation	Requirements Validation	6/2020 – 9/2020	Complete
	Design and Development	7/2020 – 2/2021	In progress
	Testing and Training	7/2020 – 5/2021	In progress
	Implementation (Release 1, 2 & 3)	2/2021 - 6/2021	R1 complete R2 and R3 are in progress
Maintenance and Operations	First Year Operation and Closeout	7/2021 - 3/2022	Not started

Project Risks and Concerns

As a result of COVID-19 and budget changes including implementation of the savings through the Personal Leave Program (PLP), the project has encountered various challenges. The project team is working to mitigate the negative impact, and the SOS Management has prioritized this project because of its significance. All efforts will be made to minimize impacts.