



SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

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January 15, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner Chair
Joint Legislative Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 553
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting, Vice Chair
Joint Legislative Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 553
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

The Honorable Chris R. Holden, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Chairpersons Skinner, Ting, Portantino, and Holden:

Attached is the Secretary of State's quarterly status 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 Margie Hieter, (Acting) Division Chief, Political Reform Division, at (916) 517-8609 or Erric Garris, Deputy Secretary of State, Legislative Affairs, at (916) 695-1686.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley N. Weber".

Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.
Secretary of State

Attachment

Introduction

Senate Bill 1349 (*Hertzberg – Ch. 845, Stat. of 2016*) 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.

During this past quarter (October 2021 – December 2021), the CARS Project has been in a “pause and evaluate” mode to allow time to resolve and improve certain system components that will greatly benefit the filing and processing of political campaigns and lobbying disclosures.

The SOS partnered with the California Department of Technology (CDT) to conduct an Independent Assessment to determine the fitness and readiness of the CARS system for public use. The final report was delivered on time, to the SOS on December 17, 2021. Delivery of the report triggers the next step for the SOS to review and analyze the Independent Assessment findings and create a Remediation Plan for the project. Based on the evaluative process that will be used to create the Remediation Plan, new or augmented funding requirements will be proposed based on our preliminary estimate of the SOS Remediation Plan via the Spring Finance Letter and Budget Change Proposal processes.

Following is a more detailed discussion of the Project’s status.

Progress October 2021 through December 2021

The CARS Project made the following progress this past quarter:

- The Independent Assessment team delivered three reports, with each report providing information that added to the information provided in the previous report. Receipt of the final report triggers the need for the SOS to prepare a high-level evaluation and analysis of the report.
 - A Fit Gap Analysis and High-Level Findings Report was delivered to the SOS on October 14, 2021.
 - A Project Assessment Report was delivered to the SOS on December 1, 2021.
 - The final report, the Roadmap, was delivered to the SOS on December 17, 2021.
- A Lessons Learned exercise gathered information from all project team members and identified opportunities for future improvement and resulted in the creation of twenty-two process-related action items that will be incorporated into the next CARS effort.

Scope, Schedule and Budget

Scope: The scope has not changed during this reporting period. An evaluation and analysis of the recommendations of the Independent Assessment will influence any future scope changes.

Schedule: The schedule has not changed during this reporting period. An evaluation and analysis of the recommendations of the Independent Assessment will influence any future schedule changes.

Budget: Pending an evaluation and analysis of the Independent Assessment and development of a remediation plan, the project budget may require supplemental funding. The SOS will be better able to estimate funding needs, and report updates to the project's scope and schedule after analyzing the Independent Assessment report findings. If current year, budget year, and budget year +1 funding is needed, it will be addressed through the normal budget/finance processes.