



**SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.**

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

Executive Office | 1500 11<sup>th</sup> Street | Sacramento, CA 95814 | Tel 916.653.7244 | [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov)

July 15, 2025

The Honorable Scott D. Wiener  
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 553  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel,  
Vice Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 553  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anna M. Caballero  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, #412  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Buffy Wicks  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairpersons Wiener, Gabriel, Caballero, and Wicks:

Attached is the Secretary of State's quarterly status report on the progress of the CAL-ACCESS Replacement System (CARS) 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 or my staff, Margie Hieter, Division Chief, Political Reform Division, at (916) 653-6224, or the Secretary of State Legislative Affairs Unit, at (916) 653-7244.

Sincerely,

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

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

Attachment

**Secretary of State's Quarterly Status Report  
CAL-ACCESS Replacement System Project  
Fiscal Year 2024-25, Quarter 4: April 2025 – June 2025**

**Introduction**

Senate Bill 1349 (Hertzberg—Ch. 845, Stat. of 2016) requires the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Fair Political Practices Commission, to develop and certify a comprehensive online filing system for campaign statements and reports. This system will ensure public access to campaign finance and lobbying information in a user-friendly, easily understandable format.

**Progress for the Period of April 2025 through June 2025**

The California Automated Lobbyist and Campaign Contribution and Expenditure Search System (CAL-ACCESS) Replacement System (CARS) Project made the following progress this past quarter (April 2025 through June 2025):

Accomplished significant development activities within the first of the four Program Increments (PI) for the CARS application. Each PI is composed of a distinct set of business functionality required for the CARS online filing and disclosure system. Before acceptance of each PI, the Secretary of State will perform robust technical and user acceptance testing.

- Began preparation for user acceptance testing (UAT) activities for PI 1. UAT is essential to verify the system meets business requirements and performs as expected for end users in real-world scenarios. Thorough planning and execution of UAT will help identify and resolve issues early, validate system functionality, and build stakeholder confidence ahead of the system's launch.
- Began development of the PI 2 functionality, which is composed of the application program interface and the Financial Transactions, System Administration and Support, and User Account Maintenance business areas.
- Continued engagement with external stakeholders in project activities including review of design documents, preview of the CARS application's functionality and workflow, and regular project status updates.
- Began "proof of concept" testing activities with the third-party software vendor partners who submit data electronically to the Secretary of State. This includes preliminary testing of data exchange with the new electronic data application programming interface with CARS.
- Continued regular engagement with the Fair Political Practices Commission including collaboration on programmatic decisions that affect CARS functionality.

During the reporting period, the CARS Project team continued work on several activities. A summary of activities currently underway is below:

- Collaboration with the prime vendor on data conversion and migration activities, including the mapping of the legacy system data to the new CAL-ACCESS system.
- Organizational change management (OCM) activities for CARS stakeholders to assess their readiness for change and prepare them for implementation of the new solution. The project's subject matter experts are working with the OCM contractor team to begin the necessary As-Is and To-Be analysis, which identifies the business processes changes that

will impact the users when CARS goes live. This analysis is a crucial activity as it will help those using the current processes (some of which are manual processes) understand how the processes will change when the new system is implemented.

- Regular meetings with the Secretary of State executive sponsor team and the Executive Steering Committee to brief them on critical project developments and introduce topics that require their formal decision-making authority.
- Bi-weekly Project Risk and Issue Meeting which is necessary to manage risks and issues that occur during the project.
- Regular meetings with both the project's Independent Verification and Validation contractor and the California Department of Technology Project Approvals and Oversight team to discuss overall project health and risk, and issue mitigation and resolution.
- Ongoing activities to ensure the stability of the legacy CAL-ACCESS until CARS is implemented.

Below is a table of timeframes of major milestones for the project.

CARS Activity	Start	Finish
Project Kick-Off	8/7/2024	8/7/2024
Requirements Clarification & Joint Application Design	9/4/2024	7/25/2025
Data Model and Data Dictionary Acceptance	11/25/2024	9/29/2025
Detailed Design Specification Document Acceptance	11/25/2024	10/6/2025
PI 1 Implementation Acceptance	12/16/2024	12/10/2025
PI 2 Implementation Acceptance	5/19/2025	2/17/2026
PI 3 Implementation Acceptance	11/17/2025	5/22/2026
PI 4 Implementation Acceptance	3/23/2026	8/28/2026
Final End-to-End User Acceptance Testing Activities	9/14/2026	10/16/2026
CARS Solution Go-Live Date	11/16/2026	11/16/2026

### **Scope, Schedule, and Budget**

**Scope:** The scope has not changed during this reporting period.

**Schedule:** The project has met its execution milestones during this reporting period per the project schedule.

**Budget:** The project operated within its approved appropriation of \$22.2 million during Fiscal Year 2024-25.