



SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

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July 15, 2026

The Honorable John Laird
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 Sabrina Cervantes
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Chairpersons Laird, Gabriel, Cervantes, 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. 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 2025-26, Quarter 4: April 2026 – June 2026**

Introduction

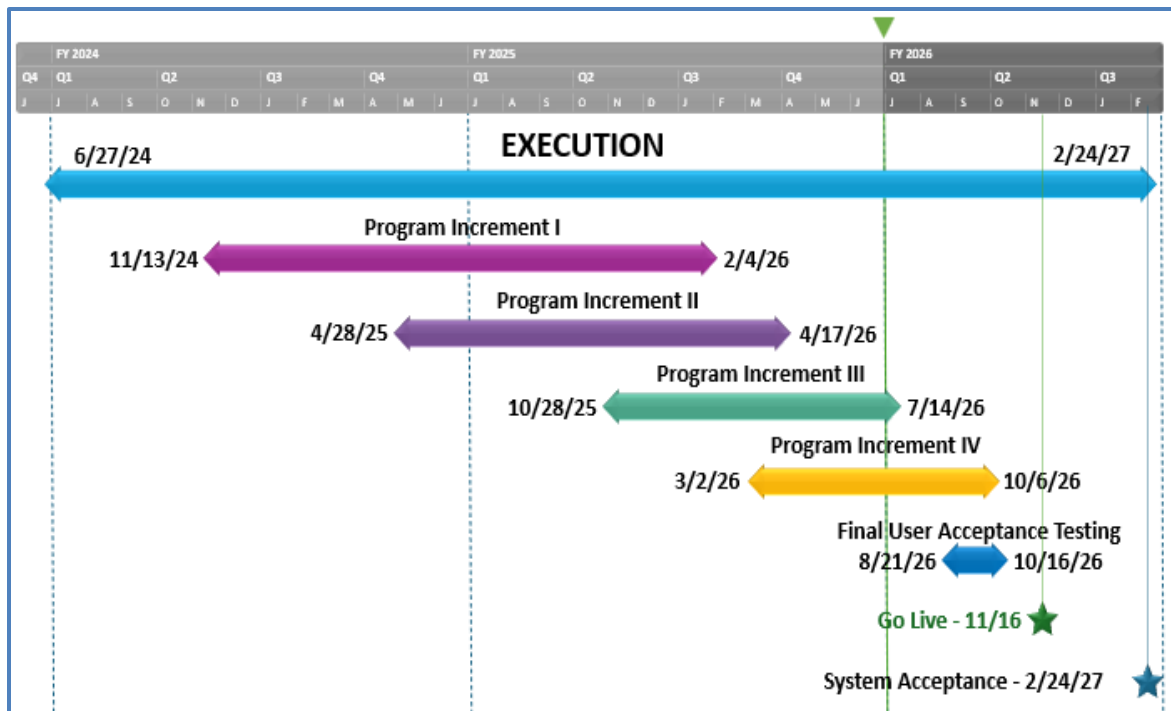
Senate Bill 1349 (Hertzberg—Ch. 845, Stat. of 2016) requires the Secretary of State (SOS), in consultation with the Fair Political Practices Commission, to develop and certify a public online filing and disclosure system for campaign statements and reports. This system is meant to make campaign finance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

Progress for the Period of April 2026 through June 2026

The California Secretary of State CAL-ACCESS Replacement System (CARS) Project continued moving forward last quarter (April 2026 through June 2026) and made the following progress:

- The second of the four Program Increments was approved on April 17, 2026. This approval represents a significant project milestone because the system now meets approximately 75% of the total requirements.
- Convened two one-week external user testing sessions in April 2026, with participation from 19 volunteers from the project's external stakeholder group. A second opportunity for external stakeholder user testing is scheduled for September 2026.
- Began user acceptance testing (UAT) of the Program Increment III functionality, which is scheduled for completion in July 2026. Once completed, approximately 90% of the total requirements will be met. These UAT activities are significant because they confirm that the CARS application meets user business needs and that the migrated CAL-ACCESS legacy data can be integrated into CARS.
- Continued the development activities for Program Increment IV functionality and identified several change requests that must be incorporated into CARS prior to go-live, including updates required by recently enacted legislation. These activities are anticipated to be completed by October 2026.
- Began electronic data interface testing activities with the project's third-party software vendor partners.

Below is the project schedule indicating the progress of CARS as of the end of June 2026.



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

- Regular engagement with the project's external stakeholders, which includes in-depth system previews of the new functionality and presentations of the changes that CARS will deliver.
- Regular engagement with the Fair Political Practices Commission including collaboration on programmatic decisions that affect CARS functionality.
- Data conversion and migration activities that ensure all the legacy CAL-ACCESS data is accurately migrated to the new CARS. Issues that arise related to data migration and conversion are being actively evaluated and resolved to mitigate any impact to go-live readiness.
- Organizational change management activities for CARS Project stakeholders to assess their readiness for change and prepare them for implementation of the new solution.
- Regular meetings with the SOS executive sponsor team and the Executive Steering Committee to brief them on critical project risks and issues and introduce topics that require their formal decision-making authority.
- Bi-Weekly Project Risk and Issue Meeting needed to manage risks and issues that arise 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 the new solution is implemented.

Scope, Schedule, and Budget

Scope: The overall business scope of the CARS application has not changed during this reporting period. The necessary changes to the CARS solution's functionality needed prior to CARS implementation are being managed via the project's formal change control process.

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

Budget: The project is operating within its approved appropriation of \$20.5 million during Fiscal Year 2025-26.