

CARS Project External Stakeholder Meeting

Date: September 10, 2025

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.



Welcome and Introductions

Margie Hieter, Project Sponsor

Harjit Basi, Project Director

John Heinlein, Assistant Project Director

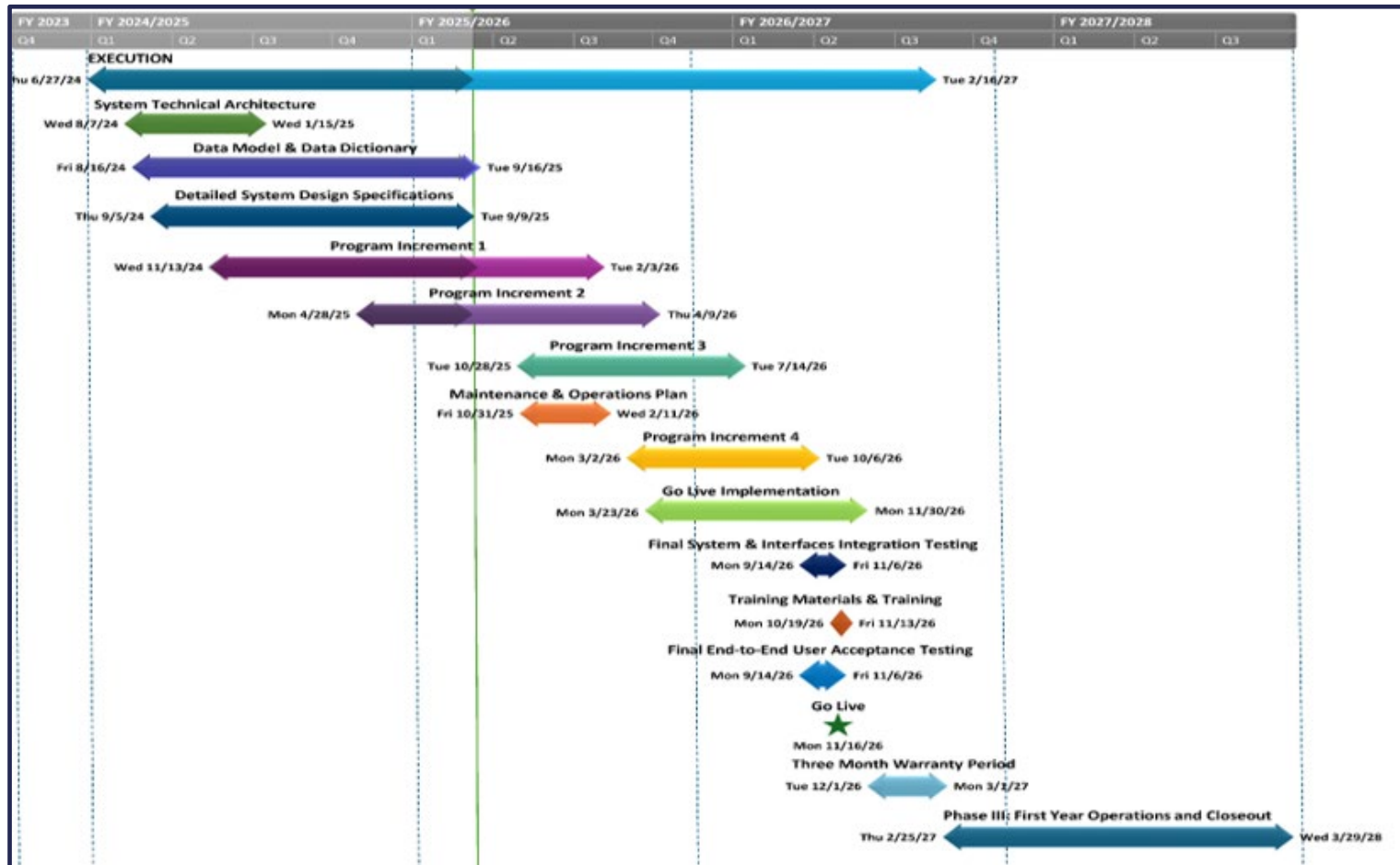
Denise Tower, CGI Project Director

Agenda

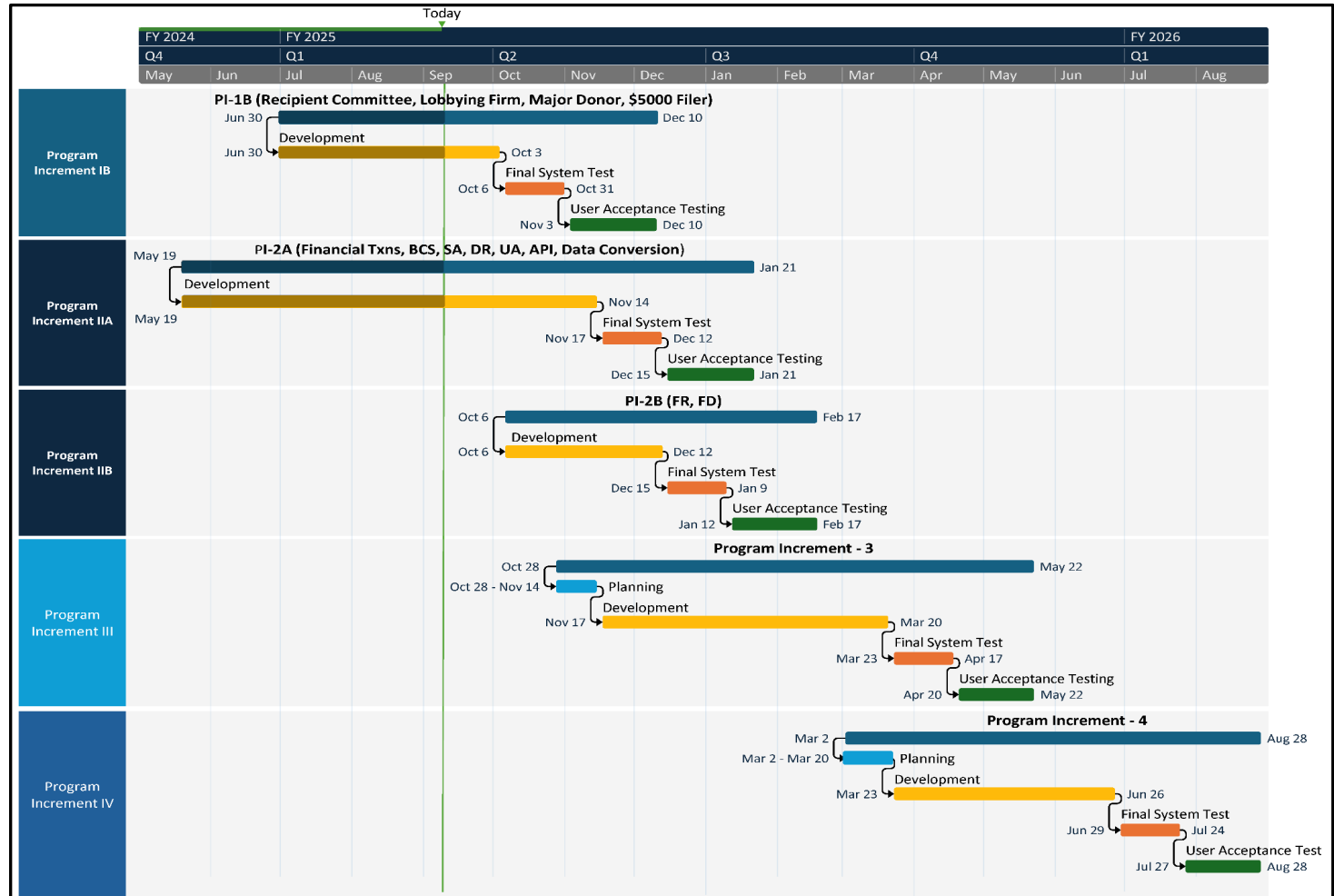
- Project Updates
 - Project Schedule
 - Program Increments I & II Activity
 - Third Party Software Vendors
- Functionality Preview
- Next Steps
- Q&A

Project Updates

Project Schedule



Project Schedule



PROGRAM INCREMENT I



II.4 Program Increment I – Design, Development, Testing: End to End Workstreams

Campaign	Lobbying
Candidate – UAT	Lobbyist Employer/Coalition - UAT
State Mailer Organization – UAT	Lobbyist – UAT
Recipient Committee – In Development/ System Test	Lobbying Firm/\$5000 filer – In Development/ System Test
Major Donor/Independent/Other Specific Campaign Types – In Development/System Test	

Currently in Sprint 20: 9/8 - 9/19

PROGRAM INCREMENT IA – UAT UPDATE



- Program Increment (PI) IA formal User Acceptance Testing (UAT) completed on August 29, 2025.
 - All 100 test cases successfully passed.
- Exploratory Testing of PI IA functionality is ongoing.
 - Exploratory testing goes beyond the usual business process flows to identify potential issues that might otherwise be missed.
- Test case writing activities for PI IB are underway. PI IB UAT is scheduled for early November 2025.
- During PI IB UAT, external stakeholders will be provided an opportunity to perform user acceptance testing.

PROGRAM INCREMENT IB - CAMPAIGN



II.4 Program Increment I – Design, Development, Testing: End to End Workstreams

Recipient Committee	Major Donor/Independent Expenditure
FR-01: Register a Committee (410) - In System Test	FR-05: Establish Major Donor/Independent Expenditure/Other Filer Account – In System Test
FR06: Manage Penalty of Perjury Attestation – In System Test	FR-07: Request Linkage to a Registered User or Filing Entity – In System Test
FR02.1: Amend a Candidate or Campaign Registration – In Development	FD-01& FD-02: Enter & Modify Major Donor/Independent Expenditure Committee Campaign Statement (461) - In System Test
	FD-01& FD-02: E-530 Filer Enter and Modify an Activity Report – In System Test
	FD-01 & FD-02: Business Entity Enter and Modify an Activity Report – In Development

PROGRAM INCREMENT IB - LOBBYING



II.4 Program Increment I – Design, Development, Testing: End to End Workstreams

Lobbying Firm

FR01: Register a Lobbying Firm – [In System Test](#)

FR06: Manage Penalty of Perjury and Attestation – [In System Test](#)

FR01: Lobbying Firm Activity Authorization – [In System Test](#)

FR06: Manage Penalty of Perjury – [In System Test](#)

Lobbying Firm - Continued

FR03: Terminate a Registration – [In Development](#)

FR02: Amend a Registration – [In Development](#)

PROGRAM INCREMENTS II, III, AND IV



Detailed System Design (DSD) and Data Model Data Dictionary (DMDD)
– Requirements Clarification & Joint Application Design Sessions
(Continued)

- DMDD submitted on 8/8/25 for formal review and approval. Approved 9/5.
- DSD submitted on 8/8/25 for formal review and approval. Resolving final few outstanding items.



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PROGRAM INCREMENT(PI) II DEVELOPMENT



II.4 Program Increment I – Design, Development, Testing: End to End Workstreams

Financial Transaction

FT-01: Create an Invoice – [In System Test](#)

FT-05: Enter and Post an Online (Credit Card) Payment – [In System Test](#)

FT-02: Adjust an Invoice/Re-allocate a Payment – [In Development](#)

FT-06: Enter and Post a Manual Payment – [In Development](#)

PROGRAM INCREMENT(PI) II DEVELOPMENT



II.4 Program Increment I – Design, Development, Testing: End to End Workstreams

System Administration/User Account Management/Common Components	System Administration/User Account Management/Common Components
UA-07.2: Reset a Password – In System Test	SA-01.2: Configure System – Under Development
UA-09: Delete a Registered User Account – In System Test	SA-01.2A: PRD Portal Common Services /Navigation - Under Development
Filer Portal – Common Service/Navigation - In System Test	
UA-02: Create a User Account – Under Development	
UA-03: Update a User Account – PRD – Under Development	

THIRD PARTY SOFTWARE VENDORS



Design sessions completed 9/9

- Continued to address design questions and review Application Programming Interface (API) specifications
- Next Meeting is 9/23 (Critical Meeting) – potential topics:
 - Project Status
 - Third Party Vendor API status/technical review
 - Attestation Process
 - Certification Process
 - Testing Schedule (POC, Integration, Certification)

Proof of Concept – Third Party Software Vendor



Forms	Status
Form 501 – Candidate Intention Statement	<u>Netfile</u> (David Montgomery), PCG (Christian Ott), and <u>GovAccess</u> (Ray Kiddy) completed Step 1, working on dates for Step 2.
Form 400 – Slate Mailer Organization Statement of Organization Form 402 – Slate Mailer Organization Statement of Termination Form 604 – Lobbyist Certification Statement	Ready for testing with POC participants
EFile processing status endpoint	Ready for testing with POC participants. Using submission id to retrieve status

Step 1: POC testing participants use the Postman collection to test connectivity and send the payload we gave them, then show that the payload was processed in the backend.

Step 2: Testing participants send payloads from their own applications.

Step 3: 3rd Party SW Vendor using the submission id received in Step 1 and Step 2 to obtain information about their submission.



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THIRD PARTY SOFTWARE VENDORS



Campaign Forms

- Form 400 - Slate Mailer Organization Statement of Organization
- Form 401 - Slate Mailer Organization Campaign Statement
- Form 402 - Slate Mailer Organization Statement of Termination
- Form 501 - Candidate Intention Statement
- Form 470 - Officeholder/Candidate Campaign Statements
- Form 470s – Officeholder/Candidate Campaign Statements (Short Form)

Lobbying Forms

- Form 603 - Lobbyist Employer/Lobbying Coalition Registration Statement
- Form 604 - Lobbyist Certification Statement
- Form 606 - Notice of Termination
- Form 607 - Notice of Withdrawal
- Form 615 – Lobbyist Report
- Form 630 – Payments made to Lobbying Coalitions
- Form 635 - Report of Lobbyist Employer/Lobbying Coalition
- Form 635-C – Payments received Lobbying Coalitions
- Form 640 – Other Payments to Influence Reporting



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THIRD PARTY SOFTWARE VENDORS



- APIs Delivered to System Test:
 - 400, 401, 402, 470/470s, 501, 603, 604, 606, 607, 615, 630, 635, 635-c, 640
- Information located on the CARS Stakeholder Repository on SOS SharePoint
 - YAML files for the APIs reviewed
 - Excel Spreadsheet from Design sessions – Topics and Notes Tabs
 - Feedback Log

PROGRAM INCREMENT I – FUNCTIONALITY PREVIEW



Functionality Preview

- Recipient Committee Registration

Information & Feedback Channels

INFORMATION & FEEDBACK CHANNELS



- Third Party Software Vendor API Meetings held 8/12/25, 8/26/25, 9/9/2025 – next meeting Tuesday, 9/23/2025
- Next External Stakeholder Meeting on 10/8/25
- PRD Website for [Quarterly Updates](#)
- Post-meeting survey: [September 10, 2025](#)



Visit the CARS project website

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/campaign-lobbying/helpful-resources/cal-access-replacement-system-project-cars-updates>

CARS Project Email Address

Submit questions and comments to the CARS project team:

PRDCARS@sos.ca.gov

- View documents, news, and events
- Sign up to receive project updates



Sign up for
e-updates



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CARS WEBSITE REMINDERS

[CARS Project Homepage](#)

[Home](#) > [Campaign & Lobbying](#) > [Helpful Resources](#) >
CAL-ACCESS Replacement System Project

Helpful Resources

[How To File Electronically](#)

[Electronic Filing Password Request](#)


[Elections Division](#)

[Federal Election Commission \(FEC\)](#)

[Fair Political Practices Commission \(FPPC\)](#)

[Political Reform Audit Program for the California Franchise Tax Board](#)

[CAL-ACCESS Replacement Project](#)



The California Automated Lobbyist and Campaign Contribution and Expenditure Search System (CAL-ACCESS) was developed to respond to the objectives of the Online Disclosure Act, added to the Political Reform Act 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. The CAL-ACCESS Replacement System (CARS) Project will implement a new data driven system replacing the existing form driven system.

To receive updates on the project as they become available follow the "sign up for e-updates" link at the bottom of this page, and, after entering your email address, select to subscribe to the CAL-ACCESS Replacement System Project Updates email list.

To reach us directly, send an email to prdcars@sos.ca.gov, call (916) 853-6224, or write to: Secretary of State, Political Reform Division, 1500 11th Street, Rm 495, Sacramento, CA 95814.

News & Updates

News & Updates for information prior to 2024 can be found on the [CARS Project Pre-2024 Archive page](#).

- October 9, 2024: Details for the monthly October Stakeholder meeting are in the [October 9, 2024 CARS Project External Stakeholder Meeting PowerPoint](#)

[CARS Project Archive](#)

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The following news and references are for the previous solution (prior to 2024) and may no longer apply. Current updates can be found on the CARS Project homepage.

Project References

- Draft version 3.07 of the CAL-ACCESS XML file specifications document (3/30/2023)
- Draft version 3.12 of the CAL-Access Application Programming Interface (API) Requirements (2/2/23)
- CAL-ACCESS Replacement Project, System Integrator Vendor, Request for Offer
- SISA (PDF)
- TS - State Surveys (PDF)
- 2013 Request for Information (RFI) and Responses (PDF)

CARS Software Vendor/Service Provider Meeting Presentations

- March 30, 2021, CARS Software Vendor Service Provider Meeting
- January 27, 2021, CARS Software Vendor Service Provider Meeting
- November 26, 2020, CARS Software Vendor Service Provider Meeting
- September 15, 2020, CARS Software Vendor Service Provider Meeting
- July 8, 2020, CARS Software Vendor Service Provider Meeting

CARS Stakeholder Input Group (SIG) Meeting Presentations

- March 16, 2021, CARS Stakeholder Input Group (SIG) Meeting
- January 29, 2021, CARS Stakeholder Input Group (SIG) Meeting
- December 2, 2020, CARS Stakeholder Input Group (SIG) Meeting
- October 7, 2020, CARS Stakeholder Input Group (SIG) Meeting
- August 19, 2020, CARS Stakeholder Input Group (SIG) Meeting

CARS External Stakeholder Meetings

- July 6, 2023: Details for the July Stakeholder meeting are in the July 6, 2023 CARS Project Update for External Stakeholders PowerPoint
- June 7, 2023: Details for the June Stakeholder meeting are in the June 7, 2023 CARS Project Update for External Stakeholders PowerPoint
- May 9, 2023: Details for the May Stakeholder meeting are in the May 9, 2023 CARS Project Update for External Stakeholders PowerPoint
- April 6, 2023: Details for the April Stakeholder meeting are in the April 6, 2023 CARS Project Update for External Stakeholders PowerPoint

For questions about project communications: PRDCARS@sos.ca.gov

Q & A

WRAP UP