

# CARS PROJECT NEWS

CA Secretary of State

June / July 2019

## Status of CARS Project Extension

In May, CARS Project News reported that the Secretary of State (SOS) and the Fair Political Practice Commission (FPPC) were jointly pursuing a project extension from the California Legislature, proposing implementation be extended until after the 2020 elections.

Senate Bill 84 (SB 84) extends the date for the Secretary of State to implement the new CAL-ACCESS to February 2021. SB 84 has been passed by the State Senate and Assembly and signed by the Governor. The CARS project team is working on a revised schedule, but until further notice we will continue to operate under the current schedule.

## LOCAL FILING AGENCIES

The SOS Political Reform Division (PRD) was established to serve as the filing office for state-level campaigns and lobbying entities. Filings for local elections are handled by the various city and county jurisdictions in which the elections are held, many of which have online filing systems and public websites for viewing reports (find [a list of those jurisdictions](#) on the City and County Electronic Filings page of the PRD website).

In 2017, PRD completed a Local Filings Alternatives Analysis to examine the feasibility of including local filings in a centralized statewide e-filing system like the new CAL-ACCESS. As such an undertaking would involve coordinating the filings and requirements of 58 counties and 482 cities — posing significant financial and technological challenges — it was determined that the implementation of the new CAL-ACCESS would not include local filings at this time. City and county jurisdictions will not need to adopt the new CAL-ACCESS as their online filing system. A local filing agency will have the flexibility to either continue using its existing system for campaign filings or transition to the revised file format of the State's new CAL-ACCESS system. Government Code Section 84615, governing electronic filing for local agencies, was amended by SB 1239 to provide local agencies with this flexibility. Even when the new CAL-ACCESS is implemented, initial registration and filing of statements of organization will still have to be completed with the State.

PRD recognizes the implementation of the new CAL-ACCESS might generate questions from our local partners. Local filing agencies may email [PRDCARS@sos.ca.gov](mailto:PRDCARS@sos.ca.gov) with questions or comments about the new CAL-ACCESS.



### Events in June

June 13, 2019 | CPAA and CPTA Meeting

June 28, 2019 | Software Vendor and Service Provider Meeting

### Upcoming Events

July 2019 | Software Vendor and Service Provider Meeting

Visit the [CARS project website](#) to sign up for electronic updates or to check out the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).

## What's New in the New CAL-ACCESS?

**Soft copies!** With the implementation of the new CAL-ACCESS, local filing agencies will be able to receive soft copies (in PDF format) of state and local Statement of Organization forms from the SOS Political Reform Division. Less paper waste!



## CARS QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Since filers will no longer submit paper forms, how can filers be confident that filings are not changed by software updates to the new CAL-ACCESS?



The new CAL-ACCESS will allow authorized users to enter data for filings required to support the business function similar to filing a paper form. Once the data is entered, the user has the ability to review it in a PDF version of the form prior to final submission. Once a filing is submitted, a PDF version of the data in this form format is saved within the system.

### CARS Project Team



## CAL-ACCESS Project Update Meetings

CAL-ACCESS Project Update Meetings are informative, interactive meetings hosted by SOS PRD to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to learn more about the development and functionality of the new CAL-ACCESS.

On June 13, 2019, the CAL-ACCESS Project Team met with the California Political Attorneys Association (CPAA) and the California Political Treasurers Association (CPTA). Discussion topics included the following:

- Software vendor certification and business processes are in development
- Each CAL-ACCESS user should have a single, individual log-in that, with permission, can be linked to multiple filing entities
- The Application Programming Interface (API) will generate temporary previews of forms prior to filing

In addition, some issues were brought up for further review:

- Criteria for search by committee
- Date/time stamps on preview reports
- System support for filers with multiple financial institutions

Please watch the CARS Project website for information on other upcoming project meetings.

## About CARS

"CARS" stands for CAL-ACCESS Replacement System. The California Secretary of State has undertaken a project to replace the current CAL-ACCESS with a new, online, data-driven filing and disclosure system.

## About the Newsletter

CARS Project News is a production of the CARS Project Team and the Secretary of State Political Reform Division.

For questions or comments regarding this project, please contact the Secretary of State via email at [PRDCARS@sos.ca.gov](mailto:PRDCARS@sos.ca.gov), by phone at (916) 653-6224, or by writing to:

Secretary of State, Political Reform Division  
1500 11th Street, Rm 495  
Sacramento, CA 95814