



# CAL-ACCESS Replacement System

# CARS PROJECT NEWS

CA Secretary of State

May 2019

## Welcome to Our Newsletter |

*Ushering in the New CAL-ACCESS*

Welcome to *CARS Project News*, the Secretary of State CAL-ACCESS Replacement System (CARS) project newsletter, where you will gain greater insight into the project's development.

Over the years, stakeholders have expressed the need for a more updated system to help alleviate issues with the current system. Built on now-obsolete platforms and technologies, the existing CAL-ACCESS is inefficient, paper dependent and unreliable. In most cases, the system cannot be modified to respond to changes in legal requirements.

The CARS project is driven by SB 1349, which requires the SOS, in consultation with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), to develop and certify a new online filing and disclosure system that provides campaign finance and lobbying information to the public in a user-friendly, easily understandable format.

The SOS utilized input garnered from market research, campaign and lobbying filers, state agencies, public interest advocates and vendors to design a system that will

automate forms, improve reporting capabilities and improve upon various business processes.

Not only will the new and improved CAL-ACCESS provide users with a more efficient, sustainable system, it will also be more flexible, easier to use and allow heightened transparency into campaign finance and lobbying activities. Public access will feature more intuitive, user-friendly search features, and the ability to save and repeat inquiries.

The CARS Project News newsletter is intended to provide stakeholders and CAL-ACCESS users with information about the project timeline and status, accomplished milestones, highlights of the new system and upcoming events.



### Events in May

May 2, 2019 | Legislative Hearings

May 10, 2019 | Software Vendor and Service Provider Update Meeting

### Upcoming Events

June 2019 | CPAA and CPTA Project Update Meeting

June 2019 | Software Vendor and Service Provider Update Meeting

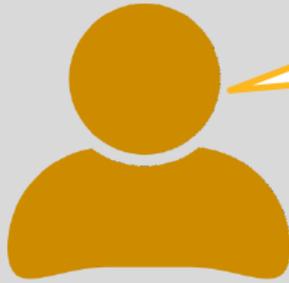
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*Visit the [CARS project website](#) to sign up for electronic updates or to check out the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).*



## CAL-ACCESS Implementation Date

A number of current CAL-ACCESS users have inquired about the timing of the new CAL-ACCESS implementation date, especially considering California's presidential primary has moved from June 2020 to March 2020. In consideration of issues raised by the CAL-ACCESS user community, the Secretary of State is pursuing a project extension from the California Legislature, proposing implementation be extended until after the 2020 elections. However, until a new implementation date is approved by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor, we are moving forward assuming implementation is still required by December 2019 pursuant to statute.

## CARS QUESTION OF THE MONTH



Will filers keep their current CAL-ACCESS passwords or will new passwords be required for the new CAL-ACCESS?

### CARS Project Team



The new CAL-ACCESS application design requires usernames and passwords for each filer and/or service provider user. As part of the Data Migration and Deployment Planning activities currently underway, the project team is assessing the feasibility of using the current usernames/passwords. Within the next few months, the process of transitioning currently active filers from the legacy system to the new CAL-ACCESS will be determined and communicated to all active filers.

Since December 2018, the CARS Project team has responded to more than 70 questions received by the [Contact CARS](#) email inbox.

### CAL-ACCESS Project Update Meetings

CAL-ACCESS Project Update Meetings are informative, interactive meetings hosted by the Secretary of State (SOS) Political Reform Division to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to learn more about the development and functionality of the new CAL-ACCESS.

Since December, the Political Reform Division has hosted five Project Update meetings with campaign finance software vendors, service providers and public interest groups. The meetings have included system demonstrations, question and answer sessions, and the opportunity for the community to provide input into system design, such as the development of an Application Programming Interface (API).

Meetings are intended to be interest-specific and seating is extremely limited, but anyone in the CAL-ACCESS community is invited to attend by remote access. Visit the CARS project website for details about upcoming meetings.

*SOS will meet with the California Political Treasurers Association and California Political Attorneys Association on June 13, 2019.*

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

Correspondence! Filing Entities will choose a preferred method to receive correspondence from the SOS Political Reform Division – either email or postal mail service. Once implemented, the new CAL-ACCESS will provide filing reminders, confirmations, referral notices and other communications about filing activity to the filer's designated inbox.

### 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. The new CAL-ACCESS system is currently scheduled for implementation in December 2019.

### 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