

## **California State Capitol Annex Project FAQs**

### **April 2021**

#### **Why is it important to re-build the California State Capitol Annex?**

- Extensive security and life safety hazards exist. Additionally, the risk of loss of life after an earthquake or fire is exacerbated by overcrowding in exit paths and stairwells that are too narrow and few.
- Built to 1949 building codes, the 70-year-old Annex does not reflect modern earthquake designs or a sprinkler system, which is problematic for a building with two (2) million visitors each year, including children, advocates, and others.
- Difficult wayfinding and non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards creates an environment of poor public access in our People's House.

#### **How will the new California State Capitol Annex address security and life safety hazard concerns?**

- The new Annex will have sprinklers throughout, larger stairwells, fewer bottlenecks in the public corridors, and have a greater number of exits that are easier to locate as it incorporates modern, post 9/11 security infrastructure.

#### **How will the Annex Project impact the economy and create jobs?**

- According to the Economic Policy Institute, for every 100 people hired on a construction project, 226 total indirect jobs are created. For every \$1 spent, an average of more than \$3 are contributed to the economy.

#### **What will be done to preserve Capitol Park?**

- The Annex Project aims to safeguard the experience of Capitol Park, as it has been enjoyed for generations. Roadways which have blocked east to west foot traffic through the Park since the 1950s will be removed, permitting barrier-free enjoyment for walking throughout the Park. New pathways will be integrated for improved accessibility to Capitol Park for all.
- This top priority of the Annex Project is outlined in the California State Capitol Annex Project Planning Study from December 2017, which can be found at <https://annex.assembly.ca.gov/>.
- The Joint Rules Committee is actively working with arborists and landscaping experts to preserve as many trees as possible within and nearby the Annex Project footprint.

#### **Will this Project eliminate 100 or more trees in Capitol Park?**

- No. Many of the Park's most prominent and distinctive trees will be protected in place – like the Civil War Grove, Moon Tree, Tulip Tree, Deodar Cedars, Bora Bora Tree, Cockspur Coral Tree and the Bunya Bunya Tree. The historic Pioneer Camellia Grove, which includes varieties that are no longer commercially available, and which is important given Sacramento's reputation as Camellia City, will also be safeguarded.

#### **Are we able to repair the existing California State Capitol Annex building?**

- The almost 70-year-old Annex building incorporates a design that cannot eliminate the ADA problems of floors that do not match, undersized stairwells and elevators, cramped corridors, and confused wayfinding. Any effort to rebuild the 1952 Annex building to modern seismic standards and to rebuild the current inefficient floor plans will be costly and would reduce available floor space as a consequence of seismic strengthening. This is costly, compounds overcrowding, cannot accommodate modern ADA standards, and increases public safety issues due to overcrowding.

### **Can the Legislature stay in the “Swing Space” at 10<sup>th</sup> and O Street?**

- No. This increases barriers for access by the public to lawmaking. The venues for Floor Sessions and many Assembly and Senate hearings will be in a different building altogether, with separate secure entry requirements, from where legislators’ offices and other hearing rooms are located.

### **How will the Annex Project be funded?**

- It was fully funded under Governor Brown. Since the funds were not immediately needed, they were reassigned to assist with the State’s pandemic response. The Project, however, is proceeding on track, utilizing the lease revenue bond authority, which Governor Brown provided as an alternative funding source.

### **When will the Legislature move out of the current California State Capitol Annex building?**

- The Annex Project is on schedule and the Legislature will move into the 10<sup>th</sup> and O Street building in the fall of 2021.

### **The State Capitol is California’s most important public building. Follow the progress of the Project via the following outlets:**

- Website: <https://annex.assembly.ca.gov/>
- Instagram: @castatecapitol
- Twitter: @castatecapitol
- Facebook: @castatecapitol