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**California Capitol Annex Project**  
**FAQ**

1) According to the Budget information released from the Governor's Office, the Annex Project will now move forward under lease revenue bonds. Is this the intended path?

The State has higher priorities for cash funds at this time so the amount alluded to is the Annex Project appropriation. The project will proceed using the statutorily authorized lease revenue bond approach.

2) Was there a plan for the project specifically amid a recession?

Yes. Government Code Section 9112.5 allows funding via lease revenue bonds as an alternative method to finance the project amid a recession when the state would rightly have higher priorities for available cash. The pressing need to address the life safety issues of the current Annex, recognized by the last 3 Governors – stairways and elevators too small for the nearly 2 million people who enter each year, no sprinklers atop a basement filled with 150 cars with fuel, lack of ADA compliant facilities – remain and the Covid-19 pandemic has made many of these even more problematic.

3) How does the building of a new Capitol fit into the needs of Californians during a recession?

Public works projects have historically been a vital piece to economic recovery. This project's commitment of public funds is an aspect of California's state government supporting safe public access and participation by and for all. Additionally, in this moment, its construction dollars will help to keep many businesses viable and wage dollars in the pockets of Californians so that they can help reinvigorate our local and state economies.

4) Why is it important to re-build the Capitol?

The Annex Project, addresses fundamental ills of the Capitol, and its lack of ADA access and associated problems first identified under Governor Schwarzenegger. The ills of the Annex, made all the more glaring by the COVID pandemic, remain. Built in 1952—before ADA standards and modern security needs—the Capitol Annex houses the Governor, 115 of California's 120 lawmakers, and is among the state's most-visited public buildings. In 2016, its almost 2 million visitors included tens of thousands of school children.

5) What are the deficiencies in the current building?

The existing building has substantial health, life safety and welfare deficiencies. The safety of all guests is dependent on undersized stair and exit widths, limited available doors for egress, no fire sprinklers and cramped elevators which lack ADA-compliant controls and safety features.

The building's other deficiencies include regular overcrowding (of particular concern during this COVID pandemic), inefficient and obsolescent HVAC (mechanical) and electrical/data systems, failing toilet and plumbing systems, and areas that are non-compliant with California's Title 24 accessibility standards.

6) Why can't we repair the existing building?

Built before ADA standards, the Annex's existing systems are failing and are costly, difficult to repair, and fail to provide the public with a safe and accessible venue to engage with their government. The mismatched floors and existing column structure make it difficult to expand and improve the building with bigger public spaces, updated and ADA-welcoming bathroom facilities. The Annex Project has emerged from consideration of these perils by 3 administrations and it will specifically address these vital health, life safety, accessibility and security deficiencies.

7) What will be done to preserve Capitol Park?

The project aims to safeguard the experience of Capitol Park much as it has been enjoyed for generations, a place to wander and feel welcome on its expansive grounds, to assemble to exercise cherished rights, and a place to enjoy from every angle views to the dome.

This top priority of the Project is outlined in the California State Capitol Annex Project Planning Study from December 2017:

*"The park serves as an important gathering place and event venue. Great care must be taken during the Capitol Annex project to minimize the impact on the historic capitol grounds. Strategic design can help to minimize impact on important trees located directly adjacent to the building. Views to the north, south, and west facades of the Historic Capitol must be maintained, as well as views to the dome from all sides. Any structures constructed or added to the east side of the Historic Capitol must be subservient to the Historic Capitol to maintain views to the dome."*

8) What steps have been taken to preserve the Park and trees?

The Joint Rules Committee actively works with arborists and landscaping experts to preserve as many trees as possible within and nearby the Project footprint.

Respect for the park and its history prompted the Joint Rules Chair to intervene in January 2017 after a storm downed two very large Civil War Grove trees (planted in 1897 and 1902), arranging instead to haul them offsite for drying so this wood, with its ties to the Civil War, may be returned to the people of

California and used in the Annex Project.<sup>1</sup>

9) Will this project affect over 100 trees?

No. The rich abundance of Capitol Park means that in the full area (from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> and from N to L, where the project will be undertaken, that many trees can be found. The environmental impact report (EIR) identified this full space as the area within which the project elements would reside. **The JRC has no intention of using the entirety of this area nor removing 100 trees within this footprint.**

The concerns about the number of trees impacted appear to be based upon the unfortunate assumption that the entire area as shown in the EIR will be the actual footprint used for the project, which is not correct.

10) Why can't the Legislature stay in the swing space at 10<sup>th</sup> and O Streets?

The basic issue of the current Annex Building's lack of ADA compliance, overcrowded hallways, non-ADA compliant bathrooms, and the failure of floors to match up even on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor as guests enter the building are problematic in a building that is "the People's House".

The immediate proximity of the West Wing and lawmakers' Annex offices supports efficiency in lawmaking that would be lost if offices and hearing spaces were permanently separated by two blocks in separate facilities with separate secured entries. The current compact proximity of key functions and offices in one building both enables the efficient conduct of the public's business and facilitates the public's access to the offices and hearing rooms and Chambers where those decisions are being debated and made. To separate these functions and spread them across buildings apart would very much change the character of democracy in California.

11) What will the 10<sup>th</sup> and O Street building be utilized for after the Legislature returns to the Capitol?

The State of California plans to use the swing space building long-term to house state employees as a great many deteriorating state buildings may be renovated.

12) When will the Legislature move?

The Project is on schedule and the Legislature will move into the 10<sup>th</sup> and O St building in the Fall of 2021.

13) The State Capitol is California's most important public building. How is information about the Project made available to the public?

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://annex.assembly.ca.gov/content/capitol-park>

The project's online website has been accessible continuously for more than three years at:  
<https://annex.assembly.ca.gov/>

In addition, it can be followed via social media at:

Instagram: @castatecapitol

Twitter: @castatecapitol

Facebook: @castatecapitol