Capitol Annex Photos

This document highlights some of the major deficiencies in the Capitol Annex. Further details regarding the deficiencies can be found on the referenced page numbers in the California State Capitol Annex Project Planning Study.



Aging HVAC Systems (Damaged Duct)

The Capitol Annex functions with an aging HVAC system that was intended to support the occupants of a part-time Legislature. The existing HVAC system struggles to maintain indoor air quality and during times of high occupancy, humidity levels climb rapidly and noticeably on upper floors. More information on this topic can be found on pages 10, 21, 26, 57, and 71 of the report.









Aging Mechanical Systems (Boiler Room and Pipes)

The Capitol Annex functions with an aging mechanical system that was largely built from materials commonly used in the 1950's. Over the years, the failing plumbing system has led to several leaks that have caused damage at the point of the leak and to the floors below. Pictured here is the boiler room (top left, top right, and bottom left) and pipes (bottom right). More information on this topic can be found on pages 10, 26, 27, 57, and 71 of the report.



Aging Systems (Damaged Insulation)

Modern building codes have insulation requirements that far exceed the existing insulation in the Annex. Aging and damaged insulation fails to retain temperatures as intended, leading to more energy use. The energy inefficiency of the Annex is unnecessarily costly and does not align with California's sustainability goals. More information on this topic can be found on pages 10, 26, 57, and 71 of the report.



Corridors to Large Hearing Rooms

The corridors to the Capitol's largest hearing rooms have shiny and sloping floors that were designed before the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law. The slope steepness of the floor exceeds the maximum allowable limits for walking surfaces and ramps, and the corridor lacks handrails required under modern accessibility standards. Shiny floors cause greater concern to the visually impaired since they often cannot see the floor edge or discern the texture and slope of a floor surface. More information on this topic can be found on pages 10-15, 52, 53, and 71 of the report.





Floor Alignment and Accessibility

Entryways to the Capitol are mainly located on the first floor of the Annex, which does not align with the first floor of the historic West Wing. Long and narrow ramps veering off the main path, post-applied lifts, and steps through the common route of foot traffic place additional burdens on those requiring accessibility assistance. More information on this topic can be found on pages 10-15, 52, 53, and 71 of the report.



Inaccessible Hearing Room (Rm 4203)

The Capitol's largest hearing rooms were built before modern accessibility standards were signed into law. Room 4203 lacks required wheelchair seats, companion seats and semi-ambulant seats making it difficult for those with accessibility needs to easily participate in the democratic process. On the first floor, the slope steepness of the floor exceeds the maximum allowable limit for ramps and lacks required handrails. At the balcony level, handrails are installed but the lack of ramps makes these seats inaccessible to many. More information on this topic can be found on pages 10-15, 52, 53, and 71 of the report.



Narrow Corridors (Governor's Suite)

Narrow corridors throughout the Annex are not compliant with modern codes and affect security and emergency preparedness in the Capitol. They also place additional burdens on those who require accessibility assistance. More information on this topic can be found on pages 10-15, 52, 53, and 71 of the report.



Undersized Electrical Infrastructure

The existing electrical infrastructure is undersized and is not compliant with current energy efficiency requirements for buildings. It predates modern office equipment needs and, in many ways, is supporting modern electronics on a backbone of the 1952 infrastructure. More information on this topic can be found on pages 10, 28, 29, 58, and 71 of the report.