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**Ensuring Structural Safety, Accessibility,  
Fire & Life Safety, and Sustainability  
in Public Schools and Community Colleges**

Fresno County Superintendent of Schools Facility Planners Meeting 06.04.24

Harlan Reymont, AIA  
Principal Architect  
DSA Sacramento Regional Office Manager

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**DSA  
Leadership  
Headquarters**

**State Architect**  
Ida A. Clair, FAIA, LEED AP BD+C, CASp

**Deputy to the State Architect**  
Kurt Cooknick

**Principal Structural Engineer for  
Codes and Standards**  
Diane Gould, SE

**Principal Architect for  
Codes and Standards**  
Eric Driever, AIA, CASp

**Chief of Administration**  
Justin Smith

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**DSA Regions**



**Oakland Regional Office Manager:**  
Chris Morton, Principal Structural Engineer

**Sacramento Regional Office Manager:**  
Harlan Reymont, AIA, Principal Architect

**Los Angeles Regional Office Manager:**  
Douglas Humphrey, Principal Architect

**San Diego Regional Office Manager:**  
Ron LaPlante, Principal Structural Engineer

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### DSA Authority

- Design and Construction Oversight:
  - ✓ K-12 Public Schools and Community Colleges
  - ✓ Structural | Fire & Life Safety | Access | Sustainability
- Plan Approval:
  - State Essential Services Buildings
  - ✓ Structural | Access
  - State Funded Construction
  - ✓ Access
- Certification Programs:
  - ✓ Project Inspector Certification
  - ✓ Testing Lab Certification
  - ✓ CASp Certification
- Code Development:
  - K-12 Public Schools and Community Colleges
  - ✓ Title 24 Parts 1,2,3,4,5,10, 11, and 12
  - Accessibility and Historical Buildings (Statewide)
  - ✓ Title 24 Parts 2 and 8

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### Field Act

- First legislation to mandate earthquake-resistant construction in the United States.
- Genesis was a March 10, 1933, 6.4 magnitude earthquake in Long Beach and destroyed 230 school buildings. Many were unreinforced masonry buildings with shoddy workmanship.
- Earthquake occurred at 5:55 pm on a Friday. It is likely that thousands of casualties, mostly children, would have occurred.
- The Field Act was passed within 30 days, and named after Assemblyman Charles Field, the key sponsor.

Since the Field Act was enacted in 1933, DSA's review and approval have ensured that there has never been a major structural failure at a public California K-12 school or community college, and no students have been injured in a Field Act compliant building.



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### Garrison Act

- In 1939 the Garrison Act was passed and applied Field Act Standards to existing school buildings.
- In 1940, The first real world test of the Field Act took place during the Imperial Valley earthquake. This earthquake was magnitude 6.9 (larger than the Long Beach earthquake).
- The sixteen post-Field Act school buildings subjected to intense shaking suffered damage that was less than 1% of their valuation.
- In contrast, older pre-Field Act structures suffered damaged equal to 29% of their valuation.



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### Greene Act

- Although the benefits of the Field Act were clearly demonstrated by the Imperial Valley earthquake, many districts still delayed inspecting or renovating older pre-Field Act structures.
- As a result, the first and second Greene Acts (named for their author, State Senator Leroy F. Greene), were passed in 1967 and 1968 respectively to set inspection deadlines for school districts.
- The 1971 San Fernando earthquake spurred the State Legislature to provide additional funding to retrofit older buildings.

Private schools are exempt from Field Act provisions.

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Design and Construction Oversight: Structural Safety Fire & Life Safety Access Compliance	<div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <b>1,018 K-12 School Districts</b>    10,010 Campuses                 </div> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <b>73 Community College Districts</b>    116 Colleges                 </div>
Plan Approval: Structural Safety Access Compliance	<div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px;"> <b>State Essential Service Buildings</b> </div>
Plan Approval: Access Compliance	<div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px;"> <b>State Buildings, CSU, UC</b> </div>

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### DSA Authority

#### Plan Approval and Construction Support: Schools

- Although DSA provides plan approval and construction oversight, DSA does not issue Certificates of Occupancy. DSA issues Certification.
- Certification indicates that schools meet the requirements of the Field Act, all applicable codes, and that Project Inspectors have provided the necessary continuous inspection and testing, resulting in the documentation to support Field Act compliance.
- Schools have "beneficial occupancy." They can occupy schools without certification, but the school district governing board is personally responsible for building safety until certification is issued by DSA.
- Prior to 2011, there were 16,386 project occupied without certification. Of these legacy projects, 6680 remain uncertified. Since 2011, 98% of school construction has been certified by DSA, due to new processes.

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## DSA Certification Process

### Plan Approval and Construction Support: Schools

DSA Process:

1. DSA provides plan review approval for reviewed disciplines. All required work must be shown on plans. All work shown on plans gets reviewed.
2. DSA reviews post-approval documents. If a change occurs, it must be reviewed and approved.
3. Project Inspector retained by governing board provides continuous inspection of all work. PI is responsible to governing board, and accountable to DSA.
4. Project Inspector enforces all work shown on plans. Project Inspector, design professionals and contractor file verified reports with DSA indicating compliance of the work to approved plans and specifications.



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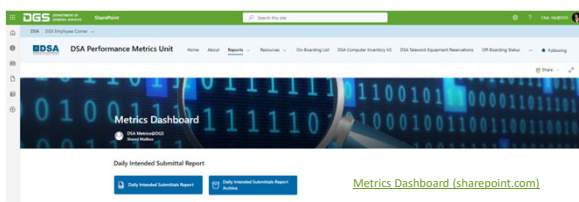
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## DSA Metrics Dashboard



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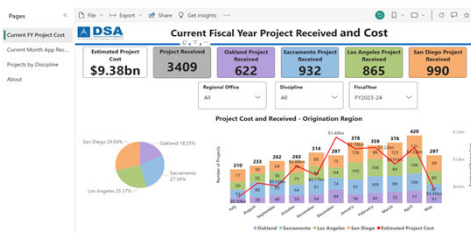
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## DSA Metrics Dashboard



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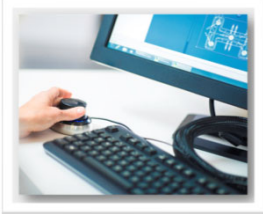

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**Appointment Process/  
Electronic Plan Review**

- Projects registered 6 – 8 weeks in advance.
- Submit documents to DSA box (cloud) for review upon appointment date, including fees.
- Since 2020, all services are conducted electronically: plan approval, backcheck, and post-construction documentation.
- Over The Counter Review for PC based projects
- Review uses BlueBeam Sessions.

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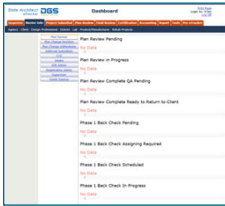
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**DSAbbox**


DSAbbox is a secure cloud based collaborative solution that allows DSA staff and external stakeholders to share, view and collaborate in real time in one location online.



**E-Tracker**



E-Tracker allows DSA staff and external clients and consultants to view project approval progress from submittal through certification.



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**Staff in office:**

- ✓ Tuesday
- ✓ Wednesday
- ✓ Thursday

**Staff telework:**

- ✓ Monday
- ✓ Friday

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**Pre-Application:**

- To determine if submission to DSA is required or exempt.
- To discuss schedule.
- To discuss code interpretations.
- To discuss new code requirements.
- To discuss possible items that may cause delay.
- District representation is recommended



**Free Pre-Application Meetings**

DSA

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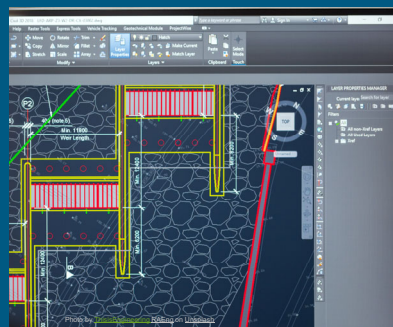
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**Electronic vs. In-Person Backcheck**

- Phase 1 desk review with written response to comments and not interactive with design team
- Phase 2 in-person interactive with design team (if did not pass Phase 1)
- Design teams may elect to skip Phase 1 and go directly to in-person



DSA

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**Statewide Teams**

Creating consistency in DSA statewide:

- Structural Safety
- Accessibility
- Fire & Life Safety
- Project Services
- Business Services
- Plan Review and Field Oversight Support
- Field Services

DSA

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