



HMC News Release

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Rising Construction Costs Are Making It Difficult For California Schools To Complete Projects With Bond Funds

ONTARIO, Calif., November 2007—Rising construction costs are making it increasingly difficult for school districts to complete their projects, according to HMC Architects, a leading designer of K-12 schools in California.

"Many of our clients are getting caught in a budgetary squeeze in which construction costs have been rising much faster than their original project estimates," said Chief Estimator and Associate Principal Marcene Taylor of HMC Architects.

State officials tried to address the problem with Proposition 1D, a November 2006 ballot initiative that provides annual funding adjustments of up to 6 percent for ongoing school construction projects. But while it's been a year since Proposition 1D was approved, state officials have yet to determine if adjustments of up to 6 percent are sufficient, Taylor said.

The Office of Public School Construction recently approved a Project Information Worksheet (PIW), which school districts will need to include with every request for funds from the State Allocation Board. The form will also need to be submitted at the project's completion. The PIW will enable the state to assess the adequacy of grants and provide for bond accountability, while gaining insight into the bid climate.

Taylor said the additional paperwork, while complicated at first glance, only involves information that is readily available, such as athletic field and square footage information, funding and costs, as well as bid climate and scoping-related information. Taylor added, however, that school districts should review the specific information needed well in advance of submitting a Fund Release Authorization to maximize efficient data gathering.

Throughout its history, HMC Architects has established a reputation as an award-winning design firm and thought leader for education, healthcare, and government facilities. Founded in 1940, HMC is one of the largest planning and design firms headquartered in California with offices strategically located throughout the West. To learn more about HMC Architects or to arrange interviews with the firm's executive, please contact Tracy Black at (800) 350-9979 and visit www.hmcarchitects.com.

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