

ITEM 11

STAFF ANALYSIS PROPOSED PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES AMENDMENT

Statutes 1975, Chapter 486
Statutes 1984, Chapter 1459
Statutes 2004, Chapter 208 (Budget Act of 2004)

Mandate Reimbursement Process

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Mandate Reimbursement Process* program allows local agencies and school districts to be reimbursed for costs incurred in preparing and presenting successful test claims to the Commission on State Mandates (Commission) and submitting reimbursement claims to the State Controller's Office (SCO). Incorrect reduction claims are considered an element of reimbursement claims.

The original parameters and guidelines for this program were adopted on November 20, 1986. Each year, the Commission amends these parameters and guidelines to incorporate the most recently enacted state budget act. In addition, this year Commission staff proposes to add language to reflect a change in the law effected by Proposition 1A, adopted by the electorate on November 2, 2004, which concerns the suspension of unfunded mandates affecting a city, county, city or county, or special district.

Staff Analysis

Commission staff prepared the proposed annual amendment of the Mandate Reimbursement Process parameters and guidelines and requested comments.¹ No comments were received. Staff made non-substantive, technical changes for purposes of consistency with recently adopted language for parameters and guidelines.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission adopt the proposed amended parameters and guidelines, as modified by Commission staff, beginning on page 5.

Staff also recommends that the Commission authorize staff to make any non-substantive, technical corrections to the parameters and guidelines following the hearing.

¹ Exhibit A.

Chronology

9/25/03	Commission adopted the Amended Parameters and Guidelines
7/31/04	2004-2005 state budget enacted (SB 1113, Stats. 2004, ch. 208)
10/1/04	Commission staff issued the draft staff analysis and proposed annual amendment of the parameters and guidelines
11/02/04	Voters approve Proposition 1A
11/15/04	Commission staff issued the final staff analysis and proposed annual amendment of the parameters and guidelines

Summary of the Mandate

On March 27, 1986, the Commission determined that Statutes 1975, chapter 486, and Statutes 1984, chapter 1459 imposed a new program by requiring local governments to file claims in order to establish the existence of a mandated program as well as to obtain reimbursement for the costs of mandated programs.

The *Mandate Reimbursement Process* program allows local agencies and school districts to be reimbursed for costs incurred in preparing and presenting successful test claims to the Commission on State Mandates (Commission) and submitting reimbursement claims to the State Controller's Office (SCO). Incorrect reduction claims are considered an element of reimbursement claims.

The original parameters and guidelines for this program were adopted on November 20, 1986. Each year, the Commission amends these parameters and guidelines to incorporate the most recently enacted state budget act. This year, Commission staff proposes to add language to reflect a change in the law effected by Proposition 1A, adopted by the electorate on November 2, 2004, which concerns the suspension of unfunded mandates affecting a city, county, city or county, or special district.

Since 1995, the state budget act has included supplemental language in the support appropriations for the SCO and the Commission. This language addresses local reimbursement for the costs of contracting with an independent contractor. The Commission adopted Appendix A to comply with the supplemental language.

Each year, the Commission amends these parameters and guidelines and Appendix A to incorporate the most recently enacted budget act. However, the amendment does not include any other revisions enacted by subsequent legislation. Subsequent statutory revisions must be submitted as new test claims, and approved by the Commission before being included in parameters and guidelines.²

² For example, Statutes 1999, chapter 643 (AB 1679) added new provisions to allow the Commission to accept more than one test claim on the same statute or executive order. These new provisions are not reimbursable under the *Mandates Reimbursement Process* parameters and guidelines.

Discussion

Commission staff prepared the proposed annual amendment of the *Mandate Reimbursement Process* parameters and guidelines to incorporate the 2004-2005 Budget Act. Staff also included an amendment to account for situations where the state constitution requires the suspension of unfunded mandates affecting a city, county, city or county, or special district, as set forth in Article XIII B, section 6, subdivision (b).³ Staff also made technical changes for purposes of consistency with adopted language for parameters and guidelines.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission adopt the proposed amended parameters and guidelines, as modified by Commission staff, beginning on page 5.

Staff also recommends that the Commission authorize staff to make any non-substantive, technical corrections to the parameters and guidelines following the hearing.

³ Proposition 1A, enacted by voters on November 2, 2004.

AMENDED PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES

Statutes 1975, Chapter 486
Statutes 1984, Chapter 1459
Statutes 200~~43~~, Chapter ~~1577208~~ (Budget Act of 200~~34~~)

Mandate Reimbursement Process

[For fiscal year 200~~34~~-200~~45~~, these parameters and guidelines are amended, pursuant to the requirements of: provision 8 of Item 0840-001-0001, and provision 1 of Item 8885-001-0001 of the Budget Act of 200~~34~~ to include Appendix A.]

Adopted: November 20, 1986
First Amendment Adopted: March 26, 1987
Second Amendment Adopted: October 26, 1995
Third Amendment Adopted: January 30, 1997
Fourth Amendment Adopted: September 25, 1997
Fifth Amendment Adopted: October 29, 1998
Sixth Amendment Adopted: September 30, 1999
Seventh Amendment Adopted: September 28, 2000
Eighth Amendment Adopted: October 25, 2001
Ninth Amendment Adopted: February 27, 2003
Tenth Amendment Adopted: September 25, 2003
Eleventh Amendment Proposed for Adoption: December 9, 2004

I. SUMMARY OF THE MANDATE

Statutes 1975, chapter 486, established the Board of Control's authority to hear and make determinations on claims submitted by local governments that allege costs mandated by the state. In addition, Statutes 1975, chapter 486 contains provisions authorizing the State Controller's Office to receive, review, and pay reimbursement claims for mandated costs submitted by local governments.

Statutes 1984, chapter 1459, created the Commission on State Mandates (Commission), which replaced the Board of Control with respect to hearing mandate cost claims. This law established the "sole and exclusive procedure" by which a local agency or school district is allowed to claim reimbursement as required by article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution for state mandates under Government Code section 17552.

Together these laws establish the process by which local agencies receive reimbursement for state-mandated programs. As such, they prescribe the procedures that must be followed before mandated costs are recognized. They also dictate reimbursement activities by requiring local agencies and school districts to file claims according to instructions issued by the Controller.

On March 27, 1986, the Commission determined that local agencies and school districts incurred "costs mandated by the state" as a result of Statutes 1975, chapter 486, and Statutes 1984, chapter 1459. Specifically, the Commission found that these two statutes imposed a new program by requiring local governments to file claims in order to establish the existence of a mandated program as well as to obtain reimbursement for the costs of mandated programs.

II. ELIGIBLE CLAIMANTS

Any local agency as defined in Government Code section 17518, or school district as defined in Government Code section 17519, which incurs increased costs as a result of this mandate is eligible to claim reimbursement of those costs.

III. PERIOD OF REIMBURSEMENT

Pursuant to Government Code section 17560, reimbursement for state-mandated costs may be claimed as follows:

- (a) A local agency or school district may file an estimated reimbursement claim by January 15 of the fiscal year in which costs are to be incurred, and, by January 15 following that fiscal year shall file an annual reimbursement claim that details the costs actually incurred for that fiscal year; or it may comply with the provisions of subdivision (b).
- (b) A local agency or school district may, by January 15 following the fiscal year in which costs are incurred, file an annual reimbursement claim that details the costs actually incurred for that fiscal year.
- (c) In the event revised claiming instructions are issued by the Controller pursuant to subdivision (c) of section 17558 between October 15 and January 15, a local agency or school district filing an annual reimbursement claim shall have 120 days following the issuance date of the revised claiming instructions to file a claim.

Reimbursable actual costs for one fiscal year shall be included in each claim. Estimated costs for the subsequent year may be included on the same claim, if applicable. Pursuant to Government Code section 17561 (d)(1), all claims for reimbursement of initial years' costs shall be submitted within 120 days of the issuance of the State Controller's claiming instructions. If the total costs for a given fiscal year do not exceed \$1,000, no reimbursement shall be allowed, except as otherwise allowed by Government Code section 17564.

There shall be no reimbursement for any period in which the Legislature has suspended the operation of a mandate pursuant to [state law](#).

IV. REIMBURSABLE ACTIVITIES

To be eligible for mandated cost reimbursement for any fiscal year, only actual costs may be claimed. Actual costs are those costs actually incurred to implement the mandated activities. Actual costs must be traceable and supported by source documents that show the validity of such costs, when they were incurred, and their relationship to the reimbursable activities. A source document is a document created at or near the same time the actual cost was incurred for the event or activity in question. Source documents may include, but are not limited to, employee time records or time logs, sign-in sheets, invoices, and receipts.

Evidence corroborating the source documents may include, but is not limited to, worksheets, cost allocation reports (system generated), purchase orders, contracts, agendas, training packets, and declarations. Declarations must include a certification or declaration stating, "I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct," and must further comply with the requirements of Code of Civil Procedure section 2015.5. Evidence corroborating the source documents may include data relevant to the reimbursable activities otherwise in compliance with local, state, and federal government requirements. However, corroborating documents cannot be substituted for source documents.

The claimant is only allowed to claim and be reimbursed for increased costs for reimbursable activities identified below. Increased cost is limited to the cost of an activity that the claimant is required to incur as a result of the mandate.

For each eligible claimant, the following activities are reimbursable:

A. Scope of Mandate

Local agencies and school districts filing successful test claims and reimbursement claims incur state-mandated costs. The purpose of this test claim is to establish that local governments cannot be made financially whole unless all state mandated costs -- both direct and indirect -- are reimbursed. Since local costs would not have been incurred for test claims and reimbursement claims but for the implementation of state-imposed mandates, all resulting costs are recoverable.

B. Reimbursable Activities

1. Test Claims

All costs incurred by local agencies and school districts in preparing and presenting successful test claims are reimbursable, including those same costs of an unsuccessful test claim if an adverse Commission ruling is later reversed as a result of a court order. These activities include, but are not limited to, the following: preparing and presenting test claims,

developing parameters and guidelines, collecting cost data, and helping with the drafting of required claiming instructions. The costs of all successful test claims are reimbursable.

Costs that may be reimbursed include the following: salaries and benefits, materials and supplies, consultant and legal costs, transportation, and indirect costs.

2. Reimbursement Claims

All costs incurred during the period of this claim for the preparation and submission of successful reimbursement claims to the State Controller are recoverable by the local agencies and school districts, unless the Legislature has suspended the operation of mandate pursuant to state law. Allowable costs include, but are not limited to, the following: salaries and benefits, service and supplies, contracted services, training, and indirect costs.

Incorrect Reduction Claims are considered to be an element of the reimbursement process. Reimbursable activities for successful incorrect reduction claims include the appearance of necessary representatives before the Commission on State Mandates to present the claim, in addition to the reimbursable activities set forth above for successful reimbursement claims.

3. Training

a. Classes

Include the costs of classes designed to assist the claimant in identifying and correctly preparing state-required documentation for specific reimbursable mandates. Such costs include, but are not limited to, salaries and benefits, transportation, registration fees, per diem, and related costs incurred because of this mandate. (One-time activity per employee.)

b. Commission Workshops

Participation in workshops convened by the Commission is reimbursable. Such costs include, but are not limited to, salaries and benefits, transportation, and per diem. This does not include reimbursement for participation in rulemaking proceedings.

V. CLAIM PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

Each of the following cost elements must be identified for each reimbursable activity identified in Section IV, Reimbursable Activities, of this document. Each claimed reimbursable cost must be supported by source documentation as described in Section IV. Additionally, each reimbursement claim must be filed in a timely manner.

A. Direct Cost Reporting

Direct costs are those costs incurred specifically for the reimbursable activities. The following direct costs are eligible for reimbursement.

1. Salaries and Benefits

Report each employee implementing the reimbursable activities by name, job classification, and productive hourly rate (total wages and related benefits divided by productive hours). Describe the specific reimbursable activities performed and the hours devoted to each reimbursable activity performed.

2. Materials and Supplies

Report the cost of materials and supplies that have been consumed or expended for the purpose of the reimbursable activities. Purchases shall be claimed at the actual price after deducting discounts, rebates, and allowances received by the claimant. Supplies that are withdrawn from inventory shall be charged on an appropriate and recognized method of costing, consistently applied.

3. Contract Services

Report the name of the contractor and services performed to implement the reimbursable activities. Attach a copy of the contract to the claim. If the contractor bills for time and materials, report the number of hours spent on the activities and all costs charged. If the contract is a fixed price, report the dates when services were performed and itemize all costs for those services.

4. Fixed Assets and Equipment

Report the purchase price paid for fixed assets and equipment (including computers) necessary to implement the reimbursable activities. The purchase price includes taxes, delivery costs, and installation costs. If the fixed asset or equipment is also used for purposes other than the reimbursable activities, only the pro-rata portion of the purchase price used to implement the reimbursable activities can be claimed.

5. Travel

Report the name of the employee traveling for the purpose of the reimbursable activities. Include the date of travel, destination point, the specific reimbursable activity requiring travel, and related travel expenses reimbursed to the employee in compliance with the rules of the local jurisdiction. Report employee travel time according to the rules of cost element A.1, Salaries and Benefits, for each applicable reimbursable activity.

6. Training

Report the cost of training an employee to perform the reimbursable activities, as specified in Section IV of this document. Report the name and job classification of each employee preparing for, attending, and/or conducting training necessary to implement the reimbursable activities. Provide the title, subject, and purpose (related to the mandate of the training session), dates attended, and location. If the training encompasses subjects broader than the reimbursable activities, only the pro-rata portion can be claimed. Report employee training time for each applicable reimbursable activity according to the rules of cost element A.1, Salaries and Benefits, and A.2, Materials and Supplies. Report the cost of consultants who conduct the training according to the rules of cost element A.3, Contracted Services.

B. Indirect Cost Reporting

1. Local Agencies

Indirect costs are costs that are incurred for a common or joint purpose, benefiting more than one program, and are not directly assignable to a particular department or program without efforts disproportionate to the result achieved. Indirect costs may include both (1) overhead costs of the unit performing the mandate; and (2) the costs of the central government services

distributed to the other departments based on a systematic and rational basis through a cost allocation plan.

Compensation for indirect costs is eligible for reimbursement utilizing the procedure provided in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-87. Claimants have the option of using 10% of direct labor, excluding fringe benefits, or preparing an Indirect Cost Rate Proposal (ICRP) if the indirect cost rate claimed exceeds 10%.

If the claimant chooses to prepare an ICRP, both the direct costs (as defined and described in OMB Circular A-87 Attachments A and B) and the indirect costs shall exclude capital expenditures and unallowable costs (as defined and described in OMB A-87 Attachments A and B). However, unallowable costs must be included in the direct costs if they represent activities to which indirect costs are properly allocable.

The distribution base may be (1) total direct costs (excluding capital expenditures and other distorting items, such as pass-through funds, major subcontracts, etc.), (2) direct salaries and wages, or (3) another base which results in an equitable distribution.

In calculating an ICRP, the Claimant shall have the choice of one of the following methodologies:

- a. The allocation of allowable indirect costs (as defined and described in OMB Circular A-87 Attachments A and B) shall be accomplished by (1) classifying a department's total costs for the base period as either direct or indirect, and (2) dividing the total allowable indirect costs (net of applicable credits) by an equitable distribution base. The result of this process is an indirect cost rate which is used to distribute indirect costs to mandates. The rate should be expressed as a percentage which the total amount allowable indirect costs bears to the base selected; or
- b. The allocation of allowable indirect costs (as defined and described in OMB Circular A-87 Attachments A and B) shall be accomplished by (1) separating a department into groups, such as divisions or sections, and then classifying the division's or section's total costs for the base period as either direct or indirect, and (2) dividing the total allowable indirect costs (net of applicable credits) by an equitable distribution base. The result of this process is an indirect cost rate that is used to distribute indirect costs to mandates. The rate should be expressed as a percentage which the total amount allowable indirect costs bears to the base selected.

2. School Districts

Indirect costs are costs that have been incurred for common or joint purposes. These costs benefit more than one cost objective and cannot be readily identified with a particular final cost objective without effort disproportionate to the results achieved. After direct costs have been determined and assigned to other activities, as appropriate, indirect costs are those remaining to be allocated to benefited cost objectives. A cost may not be allocated as an indirect cost if any other cost incurred for the same purpose, in like circumstances, has been claimed as a direct cost.

Indirect costs include: (a) the indirect costs originating in each department or agency of the governmental unit carrying out state mandated programs, and (b) the costs of central

governmental services distributed through the central service cost allocation plan and not otherwise treated as direct costs.

School districts must use the J-380 (or subsequent replacement) non-restrictive indirect cost rate provisionally approved by the California Department of Education.

3. County Offices of Education

County offices of education must use the J-580 (or subsequent replacement) non-restrictive indirect cost rate provisionally approved by the California Department of Education.

4. Community College Districts

Community colleges have the option of using: (1) a federally approved rate, utilizing the cost accounting principles from the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-21, "Cost Principles of Educational Institutions"; (2) the rate calculated on State Controller's Form FAM-29C; or (3) a 7% indirect cost rate.

VI. RECORD RETENTION

Pursuant to Government Code section 17558.5, subdivision (a), a reimbursement claim for actual costs filed by a local agency or school district pursuant to this chapter¹ is subject to the initiation of an audit by the Controller no later than three years after the date that the actual reimbursement claim is filed or last amended, whichever is later. However, if no funds are appropriated or no payment is made to a claimant for the program for the fiscal year for which the claim is filed, the time for the Controller to initiate an audit shall commence to run from the date of initial payment of the claim. In any case, an audit shall be completed not later than two years after the date that the audit is commenced. All documents used to support the reimbursable activities, as described in Section IV, must be retained during the period subject to audit. If an audit has been initiated by the Controller during the period subject to audit, the retention period is extended until the ultimate resolution of any audit findings.

VII. OFFSETTING SAVINGS AND OTHER REIMBURSEMENT

Any offsetting savings the claimant experiences in the same program as a direct result of the same statutes or executive orders found to contain the mandate shall be deducted from the costs claimed. In addition, reimbursement for this mandate from any source, including but not limited to, services fees collected, federal funds, and other state funds, shall be identified and deducted from this claim.

VIII. STATE CONTROLLER'S CLAIMING INSTRUCTIONS

Pursuant to Government Code section 17558, subdivision (b), the Controller shall issue claiming instructions for each mandate that requires state reimbursement not later than 60 days after receiving the adopted parameters and guidelines from the Commission, to assist local agencies and school districts in claiming costs to be reimbursed. The claiming instructions shall be derived from the statute or executive order creating the mandate and the parameters and guidelines adopted by the Commission.

¹ This refers to Title 2, division 4, part 7, chapter 4 of the Government Code.

Pursuant to Government Code section 17561, subdivision (d)(1), issuance of the claiming instructions shall constitute a notice of the right of the local agencies and school districts to file reimbursement claims, based upon parameters and guidelines adopted by the Commission.

IX. REMEDIES BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Upon request of a local agency or school district, the Commission shall review the claiming instructions issued by the State Controller or any other authorized state agency for reimbursement of mandated costs pursuant to Government Code section 17571. If the Commission determines that the claiming instructions do not conform to the parameters and guidelines, the Commission shall direct the Controller to modify the claiming instructions and the Controller shall modify the claiming instructions to conform to the parameters and guidelines as directed by the Commission.

In addition, requests may be made to amend parameters and guidelines pursuant to Government Code section 17557, and California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 1183.2.

X. LEGAL AND FACTUAL BASIS FOR THE PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES

The Statement of Decision is legally binding on all parties and provides the legal and factual basis for the parameters and guidelines. The support for the legal and factual findings is found in the administrative record for the test claim. The administrative record, including the Statement of Decision, is on file with the Commission.

(Continue to Appendix A)

PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES

Statutes 1975, Chapter 486
Statutes 1984, Chapter 1459

APPENDIX A

Limitation on Reimbursement for Independent Contractor Costs During Fiscal Years 200~~34~~-200~~45~~²

- A. If a local agency or school district contracts with an independent contractor for the preparation and submission of reimbursement claims, the costs reimbursable by the state for that purpose shall not exceed the lesser of (1) 10 percent of the amount of the claims prepared and submitted by the independent contractor, or (2) the actual costs that would necessarily have been incurred for that purpose if performed by employees of the local agency or school district.

The maximum amount of reimbursement provided in subdivision (a) for an independent contractor may be exceeded only if the local agency or school district establishes, by appropriate documentation, that the preparation and submission of these claims could not have been accomplished without incurring the additional costs claimed by the local agency or school district.

- B. Costs incurred for contract services and/or legal counsel that assist in the preparation, submission and/or presentation of claims are recoverable within the limitations imposed under A. above. Provide copies of the invoices and/or claims that were paid. For the preparation and submission of claims pursuant to Government Code sections 17561 and 17564, submit an estimate of the actual costs that would have been incurred for that purpose if performed by employees of the local agency or school district; this cost estimate is to be certified by the governing body or its designee.

If reimbursement is sought for independent contractor costs that are in excess of [Test (1)] ten percent of the claims prepared and submitted by the independent contractor or [Test (2)] the actual costs that necessarily would have been incurred for that purpose if performed by employees or the local school district, appropriate documentation must be submitted to show that the preparation and submission of these claims could not have been accomplished without the incurring of the additional costs claimed by the local agency or school district. Appropriate documentation includes the record of dates and time spent by staff of the contractor for the preparation and submission of claims on behalf of the local agency or school district, the contractor's billed rates, and explanation on reasons for exceeding Test (1) and/or Test (2). In the absence of appropriate documentation,

² The limitation added by the Budget Act of 200~~34~~, Statutes 200~~34~~, chapter ~~157208~~, in Item 0840-001-0001, Provision 8, and in Item 8885-001-0001, Provision 1, is shown as part A. of this Appendix.

reimbursement is limited to the lesser of Test (1) and/or Test (2). No reimbursement shall be permitted for the cost of contracted services without the submission of an estimate of actual costs by the local agency or school district.