

SixTen and Associates

Mandate Reimbursement Services

KEITH B. PETERSEN, MPA, JD, President
5252 Balboa Avenue, Suite 807
San Diego, CA 92117

Telephone: (858) 514-8605
Fax: (858) 514-8645
E-Mail: Kbpsixten@aol.com

October 10, 2003

RECEIVED

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**COMMISSION ON
STATE MANDATES**

Paula Higashi, Executive Director
Commission on State Mandates
U.S. Bank Plaza Building
980 Ninth Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Test Claim 02-TC-44
Clovis Unified School District
Deferred Maintenance Programs

Dear Ms. Higashi:

I have received the comments of the Department of Finance (DOF) dated September 15, 2003 to which I now respond on behalf of the test claimant.

Although none of the objections generated by DOF are included in the statutory exceptions set forth in Government Code Section 17556, the objections stated additionally fail for the following reasons:

1. **The Comments of DOF are Incompetent and Should be Excluded**

Test claimant objects to the Comments of DOF, in total, as being legally incompetent and move that they be excluded from the record. Title 2, California Code of Regulations, Section 1183.02(d) requires that any:

"...written response, opposition, or recommendations and supporting documentation shall be signed at the end of the document, under penalty of perjury by an authorized representative of the state agency, with the declaration that it is true and complete to the best of the representative's personal knowledge or information and belief."

The DOF comments do not comply with this essential requirement.

Furthermore, the test claimant objects to any and all assertions or representations of fact made by DOG, such as "there are some school districts that choose not to participate in the program" since it has failed to comply with Title 2, California Code of Regulations, Section 1183.02(c)(1) which requires:

"If assertions or representations of fact are made (in a response), they must be supported by documentary evidence which shall be submitted with the state agency's response, opposition, or recommendations. All documentary evidence shall be authenticated by declarations under penalty of perjury signed by persons who are authorized and competent to do so and must be based on the declarant's personal knowledge or information or belief."

2. Deferred Maintenance Programs are not Discretionary

DOF contends that Deferred Maintenance Programs are discretionary. This is not true. For example Education Code Section 17584.1¹ requires the following:

¹ Education Code Section 17584.1, added by Chapter 390, Statutes of 1999, Section 3:

"(a) The governing board of a school district shall discuss proposals and plans for expenditure of funds for the deferred maintenance of school district facilities at a regularly scheduled public hearing.

(b) In any year that the school district does not set aside ½ of one percent of its current-year revenue limit average daily attendance for deferred maintenance, the governing board of a school district shall submit a report to the Legislature by March 1, with copies to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Board of Education, the Department of Finance, and the State Allocation Board.

(c) The report required pursuant to subdivision (b) shall include all of the following:

(1) A schedule of the complete school facilities deferred maintenance needs of the school district for the current year, including a schedule of costs per schoolsite and total costs.

(2) A detailed description of the school district's spending priorities for the current year, and an explanation of why those priorities, or any other considerations, have prevented the school district from setting aside sufficient local funds so as to permit it to fully fund its deferred maintenance program and, if eligible, to participate in the state deferred maintenance funding program as set forth in Section 17584.

(3) An explanation of how the governing board of a school district plans to meet its current-year facilities deferred maintenance needs without setting aside

- (a) Subdivision (a) provides that the governing board of a school district shall discuss proposals and plans for expenditure of funds for the deferred maintenance of school district facilities at a regularly scheduled public hearing.
- (b) Subdivision (b) provides that, in any year that the school district does not set aside ½ of one percent of its current-year revenue limit average daily attendance for deferred maintenance, the governing board of a school district shall submit a report to the Legislature by March 1, with copies to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Board of Education, the Department of Finance, and the State Allocation Board.
- (c) Subdivision (c) provides that the report required pursuant to subdivision (b) shall include all of the following:
 - (1) A schedule of the complete school facilities deferred maintenance needs of the school district for the current year, including a schedule of costs per schoolsite and total costs.
 - (2) A detailed description of the school district's spending priorities for the current year, and an explanation of why those priorities, or any other considerations, have prevented the school district from setting aside sufficient local funds so as to permit it to fully fund its deferred maintenance program and, if eligible, to participate in the state deferred maintenance funding program as set forth in Section 17584.
 - (3) An explanation of how the governing board of a school district plans to meet its current-year facilities deferred maintenance needs without setting aside the funds set forth in Section 17584.
- (d) Subdivision (d) provides that copies of the report shall be made available at each schoolsite within the school district and shall be provided to the public upon request.

Therefore, these provisions of the test claim legislation are clearly mandatory.

3. Bypassing Matching Funds is not a Viable Option

Subdivision (e) of Education Code Section 17584.1 provides that the purposes of the requirements set forth above is to inform the public regarding the local decisionmaking process relating to the deferred maintenance of school facilities, and to provide a foundation for local accountability in that regard. Local accountability is the key phrase

the funds set forth in Section 17584.

(d) Copies of the report shall be made available at each schoolsite within the school district and shall be provided to the public upon request.

(e) The purposes of this section is to inform the public regarding the local decisionmaking process relating to the deferred maintenance of school facilities, and to provide a foundation for local accountability in that regard.”

of that provision.

In the Department of General Services (DGS) Deferred Maintenance Program Handbook (January 2003)² the program is described as follows:

“The Deferred Maintenance Program (DMP) provides State matching funds, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, to assist school districts with expenditures for major repair or replacement of existing school building components so that the education process may safely continue....Applicant districts are responsible for complying will all laws and regulations for any project undertaken pursuant to the requirements of the DMP.”

To obtain these dollar-for-dollar funds, school districts must comply with the requirements of the test claim legislation. DOF suggests that establishing an account to receive those matching funds is a discretionary act and school districts have the option of paying for these needed repairs without the benefit of matching funds. In view of the “local accountability” feature of the legislation, bypassing matching funds is not a viable option.

The response of the DOF should be disregarded as legally incompetent for its failure to comply with Section 1183.02 of Title 5, California Code of Regulations. In addition, the test claim should be approved as submitted because its comments are both factually and legally incorrect.

CERTIFICATION

I certify by my signature below, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that the statements made in this document are true and complete to the best of my own personal knowledge or information and belief.

Sincerely,



Keith B. Petersen

C: Per Mailing List Attached

² Chapter 1 - Deferred Maintenance Program Overview, at page 1

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

RE: Deferred Maintenance Programs
CLAIMANT: Clovis Unified School District

I declare:

I am employed in the office of SixTen and Associates, which is the appointed representative of the above named claimant(s). I am 18 years of age or older and not a party to the within entitled matter.

On the date indicated below, I served the attached: letter of October 10, 2003, addressed as follows:

Paula Higashi
Executive Director
Commission on State Mandates
980 Ninth Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX: (916) 445-0278

AND per mailing list attached

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| <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. MAIL: I am familiar with the business practice at SixTen and Associates for the collection and processing of correspondence for mailing with the United States Postal Service. In accordance with that practice, correspondence placed in the internal mail collection system at SixTen and Associates is deposited with the United States Postal Service that same day in the ordinary course of business.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OTHER SERVICE: I caused such envelope(s) to be delivered to the office of the addressee(s) listed above by:</p> <p>_____ (Describe)</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION: On the date below from facsimile machine number (858) 514-8645, I personally transmitted to the above-named person(s) to the facsimile number(s) shown above, pursuant to California Rules of Court 2003-2008. A true copy of the above-described document(s) was(were) transmitted by facsimile transmission and the transmission was reported as complete and without error.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A copy of the transmission report issued by the transmitting machine is attached to this proof of service.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PERSONAL SERVICE: By causing a true copy of the above-described document(s) to be hand delivered to the office(s) of the addressee(s).</p> |
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I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on 10/10/03, at San Diego, California.


Diane Bramwell

Commission on State Mandates

Original List Date: 7/8/2003 Mailing Information: Other
Last Updated:
List Print Date: 08/18/2003
Claim Number: 02-TC-44
Issue: Deferred Maintenance Programs

Mailing List

TO ALL PARTIES AND INTERESTED PARTIES:

Each commission mailing list is continuously updated as requests are received to include or remove any party or person on the mailing list. A current mailing list is provided with commission correspondence, and a copy of the current mailing list is available upon request at any time. Except as provided otherwise by commission rule, when a party or interested party files any written material with the commission concerning a claim, it shall simultaneously serve a copy of the written material on the parties and interested parties to the claim identified on the mailing list provided by the commission. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1181.2.)

Mr. Keith B. Petersen SixTen & Associates 5252 Balboa Avenue, Suite 807 San Diego, CA 92117	Claimant Representative Tel: (858) 514-8605 Fax: (858) 514-8645
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Mr. Bill McGuire Clovis Unified School District 1450 Herndon Avenue Clovis, CA 93611-0599	Claimant Tel: (559) 327-9000 Fax: (559) 327-9129
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Mr. Paul Minney Spector, Middleton, Young & Minney, LLP 7 Park Center Drive Sacramento, CA 95825	Tel: (916) 646-1400 Fax: (916) 646-1300
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Ms. Harmeet Barkschat Mandate Resource Services 5325 Elkhorn Blvd. #307 Sacramento, CA 95842	Tel: (916) 727-1350 Fax: (916) 727-1734
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Mr. Steve Smith Mandated Cost Systems, Inc. 11130 Sun Center Drive, Suite 100 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670	Tel: (916) 669-0888 Fax: (916) 669-0889
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Ms. Sandy Reynolds Reynolds Consulting Group, Inc. P.O. Box 987 Sun City, CA 92586	Tel: (909) 672-9964 Fax: (909) 672-9963
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Dr. Carol Berg

Education Mandated Cost Network
1121 L Street, Suite 1060
Sacramento, CA 95814

Tel: (916) 446-7517

Fax: (916) 446-2011

Mr. Arthur Palkowitz

San Diego Unified School District
4100 Normal Street, Room 3159
San Diego, CA 92103-8363

Tel: (619) 725-7565

Fax: (619) 725-7569

Mr. Steve Shields

Shields Consulting Group, Inc.
1536 36th Street
Sacramento, CA 95816

Tel: (916) 454-7310

Fax: (916) 454-7312

Ms. Beth Hunter

Centration, Inc.
8316 Red Oak Street, Suite 101
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Tel: (866) 481-2642

Fax: (866) 481-5383

Mr. Michael Havey

State Controller's Office (B-08)
Division of Accounting & Reporting
3301 C Street, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95816

Tel: (916) 445-8757

Fax: (916) 323-4807

Mr. Gerald Shelton

California Department of Education (E-08)
Fiscal and Administrative Services Division
1430 N Street, Suite 2213
Sacramento, CA 95814

Tel: (916) 445-0554

Fax: (916) 327-8306

Mr. Keith Gmeinder

Department of Finance (A-15)
915 L Street, 8th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Tel: (916) 445-8913

Fax: (916) 327-0225

Ms. Luisa M. Park

(A-17)

State Allocation Board
1130 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Tel:

Fax: