CAL-ACCESS Replacement System

CARS PROJECT NEWS

CA Secretary of State | August 2019

CARS PROJECT EXTENSION: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

In light of the new implementation date of February 2021, the CARS Project Team is developing an updated schedule, including new timelines, for the critical CARS software development, integration, testing and implementation activities. The team is working around election year activities, filing deadlines and other related timelines to draft the updated schedule. In addition to development of the software vendor Application Programming Interface (API), the project team plans to update the timelines for software vendor integration, vendor testing with the CARS API, software vendor re-certification, external stakeholder feedback and involvement, legacy data migration and SOS' formal user acceptance testing. The project team anticipates that the updated schedule will be finalized and available over the next few months.

CARS QUESTION OF THE MONTH

With the extension of the CARS implementation, will there still be project meetings with stakeholders until go-live?

Absolutely! The CARS Project Team will continue to meet with stakeholders to provide project updates, demos and Q&A on a regular basis - usually monthly or quarterly. In addition, the CARS Project Team will schedule other meetings as needed based on the project activities such as integration testing or user data migration. Anyone interested in attending any of our public meetings should visit the CARS project website for meeting details or to sign up for electronic updates.

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Events in August

August 23, 2019 | Software Vendor and Service Provider Project Meeting (tentative)

Events in Development

September 2019 | Software Vendor and Service Provider Meeting

September 2019 | CPAA and CPTA Project Meeting

September 2019 | Lobbying Project Meeting

Visit the CARS project website to sign up for electronic updates or to check out the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

What's New in the New CAL-ACCESS?

Online Payments! Filers paying fees or fines by credit card will be able to pay online using the new CAL-ACCESS – no telephone or paper required. Filers may also make payments by mailing or bringing a check or money order to the Secretary of State Political Reform Division (PRD).

How will it work?

Cumulative Year-to-Date/ Election-to-Date Reporting

In the past months, the CARS Project Team has engaged in significant dialogue with the CAL-ACCESS users who have questions about how cumulative contributions or expenditures will be tracked and displayed by the new CAL-ACCESS. Here's an overview of how reporting cumulative amounts will work in the new CAL-ACCESS.

1. Filer inputs transactions, individually over time or all at once.
2. The new CAL-ACCESS will calculate and display the cumulative year-to-date or election-to-date totals when the transactions are entered.
3. Filer may then override or accept system calculations, attesting to the cumulative total reported.

This method, based in part on user feedback, provides the filer with the convenience of automated calculations as well as the flexibility to reconcile reported totals when necessary.

Do you have a question about how the new CAL-ACCESS will work? Ask PRDCARS@sos.ca.gov.

About CARS

"CARS" stands for CAL-ACCESS Replacement System. The California Secretary of State has undertaken a project to replace the current CAL-ACCESS with a new, online, data-driven filing and disclosure system.

About the Newsletter

CARS Project News is a production of the CARS Project Team and the Secretary of State Political Reform Division.

For questions or comments regarding this project, please contact the Secretary of State via email at PRDCARS@sos.ca.gov, by phone at (916) 653-6224, or by writing to:

Secretary of State, Political Reform Division
1500 11th Street, Rm 495
Sacramento, CA 95814

CAL-ACCESS Project Update Meetings

CAL-ACCESS Project Update Meetings are informative and interactive meetings hosted by the CARS project to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to learn more about the development and functionality of the new CAL-ACCESS.

On June 28, 2019, the CARS Project Team held a virtual meeting with electronic filing software vendors and service providers. Discussion topics included the following:

- Approval of Senate Bill 84, extending the CAL-ACCESS implementation date to February 2021
- Vendor testing of the electronic file specifications, which will begin with low to medium complexity forms and gradually extend to higher complexity forms
- Options to preview information in PDF forms prior to submission and attestation, with vendors expressing a preference to pull the preview upon request
- New CAL-ACCESS configuration, which is being structured to manage load during high volume transaction periods
- XML fields and character limits, with the limit for description fields currently configured to be 1500 characters
- Form 460 schedules D and E linkage, which contains the election year and type

In consideration of the July 31, 2019, filing deadline, there was no electronic filing software vendor and service provider project meeting in July.

Visit the CARS project website for details about the next project update meeting.