State of California • Department of General Services • Gray Davis, Governor
DIVISION OF THE STATE ARCHITECT
Headquarters • 1130 K Street, Suite 101 • Sacramento, CA 95814 • (916) 445-8100

January 11, 2001

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By

Dr. Kevin Starr
State Librarian of California
Library – Courts Building
P.O. Box 942837
Sacramento, CA 94237-0001

Dear Dr. Starr:

I am writing in response to your letter that requested information on the application of the Field Act, specifically to "joint use" public library/school library projects. The Division of the State Architect (DSA) believes that joint use public library/school projects will benefit both the local community and the educational experience of public school students. We look forward to partnering with the California State Library on these joint use projects. The DSA is also exploring a variety of project delivery methods for providing non-traditional educational opportunities.

The following is provided in response to the California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board request for information. The requests are repeated here for reference.

1. *The specific basis by which your office determines if a construction project triggers the Field Act requirements, including review and approval of plans and specifications by your office.*

A project for the construction of a library would be required to meet the Field Act requirements for review of plans and specifications by DSA for structural safety, disabled access and fire/life safety if:

a. The building is located on school property, or
b. The building or a portion of the building provides space for required educational purposes for more than 24 pupils enrolled in kindergarten or any of the grades 1 to 12 at any one time in the building. Off-campus existing buildings that fall into this category will be able to receive DSA approval through an alternative project delivery process.

All other projects for the construction of a joint use library would not trigger the requirements of the Field Act, however if any state funds are expended on the project, DSA review of the plans and specifications for disabled access is required.

2. *A workable procedure for local public library jurisdictions (cities, counties, and library districts) to obtain a determination of Field Act applicability from your office <u>prior</u> to an application for Bond Act funds.*

The local public library jurisdictions would be able to determine if the building is located on school property without DSA assistance. Determining whether more than 24 students are required to be at the library at any one time would be determined during school district and local public library jurisdiction discussions.

I sincerely hope that I have provided information that you will find useful in determining DSA's involvement in plan review of joint use public library/school library projects. I look forward to working together to implement the Library Bond Act for joint-use projects.

If you have any additional questions, you may contact me at (916) 445-4167 or Dennis Bellet, Principal, Structural Policy, at (916) 445-0783.

Sincerely,

STEPHAN CASTELLANOS, FAIA
State Architect

SC:DB:tp

cc: Richard B. Hall, Library Bond Act Manager, California State Library
Dennis Bellet, DSA