

Valley View Elementary School - El Dorado Hills, CA

## Get Energized! Changes to the SAB Energy Conservation Program

Jeff Kennedy, Principal

The energy program implemented with the passage of Proposition 55 in 2004 provided supplemental funding for applications that met certain

criteria. In order to qualify for this additional funding, proposed new school buildings were required to exceed Title 24 minimum energy requirements by at least 15%. For applications containing multiple buildings, each building had to exceed the minimum by 15% to qualify. Similarly, a higher level of supplemental funding could be achieved by exceeding the Title 24 minimum requirements by at least 25%. All of the funding set aside for this program has been allocated and the program is now defunct.

With the passage of Proposition 1D last November, a new energy program, officially titled the "High Performance Schools Incentive Grant", has been established. \$100,000,000 has been set aside to fund the program. Whereas the previous program was supplemental, the new program is incentive-based. The new program uses a High Performance Rating Criteria (HPRC) that is evaluated by DSA and based on the California High Performing Schools (CHPS) scorecard. The CHPS scorecard contains prerequisites and a point system based on sustainable measures included in the project. There are a total of 85 possible points. Schools with a minimum number of points can obtain a 2% grant increase over the basic Per Pupil Grant (PPG). The additional grant can be as high as a 9% increase over the PPG for projects achieving the maximum number of points.

» *Get Energized, page 2*

### In This Issue

-Get Energized

-Estimate

Page 1

-Get Energized (continued)

-Estimate (continued)

-Did You Know ...?

Page 2

-Staff News

Page 3

## What is an Estimate Good For?

Gerry Hughes, Estimating Specialist

At the 2007 annual CASH conference, our Estimating Specialist, Gerry Hughes, will lead a Roundtable discussion on the practical uses and limitations of construction cost estimates.

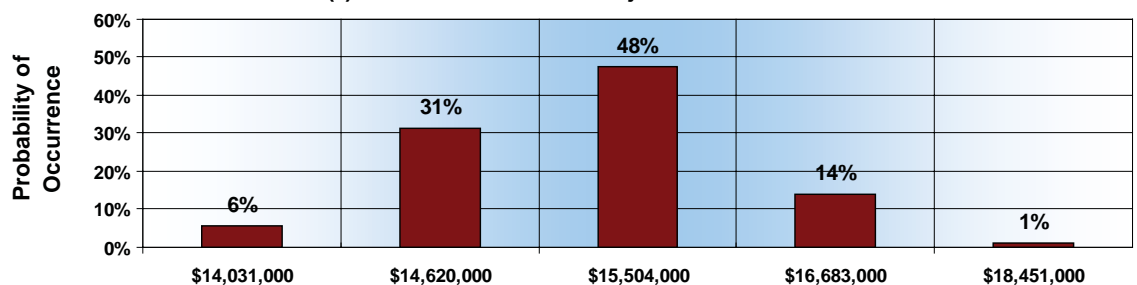
The discussion will include a brief description of the various type of estimates, the difference between budgets, estimates, and bids, the margin of error that can reasonably be anticipated with a given estimate,

assessing the risk of bid climates, and the practical use of estimates for determining budgets, scope, bid alternates and possibly phasing.

An example of assessing the likeliness of a particular bid result is illustrated by the graph below. In this particular scenario, estimating parameters such as: project size/type, bid timing, and supply/demand data for both materials and labor were all assessed to make a more educated guess as to the probability of how an estimate will fare on bid day.

» *Estimate, page 2*

(II) Risk Assessment for Projected Bid Climate



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## Get Energized

» Continued from page 1



Lake Canyon Elementary School - Galt, CA

### Tidbit

(Internal Office Communications)

#### Finish What You Start

I believe we may be using the drawing note “prefinished” to show that we want a specific color or finish that may or may not be defined elsewhere in the documents. An example of where it has not worked well is a note on a relocatable roof callout which reads “Metal Roof Panels – Prefinished.” The subcontractor bids their standard “prefinished” galvanized roofing material which is a nice metallic grey color. Unfortunately, it doesn’t match the metal roofing on the rest of the campus buildings. The downspouts and gutters were called out “prefinished” to match metal roofing. We will end up with grey roofing, gutters and downspouts unless we pay extra to have them painted according to the Contractor. Suggestion: add the words “color (or texture) to be selected by Architect (or Owner)” after the word “prefinished.” This would alert the shrewd bidders that we are looking for something more than their “standard prefinished” product and reduce the talking time.

For a school project to be considered a High Performance School through the CHPS program, and to qualify for the additional incentive grants, the following minimum points apply:

2002 CHPS, new construction: Comply with all program prerequisites and earn a minimum of 28 points (this program is valid for applications submitted to DSA prior to August 24, 2007, except the 2005 Title 24 energy criteria is used instead of the 2001 Title 24 criteria).

2006 CHPS, new construction: Comply with all program prerequisites and earn a minimum of 32 points.

2006 CHPS, major modernization or new building on an existing campus: Comply with all program prerequisites and earn a minimum of 25 points.

The SAB approved the High Performance Schools Incentive Grant regulations on an emergency basis. However, legislation (AB1302) that became effective January 1, 2007 tightened the requirements to process legislation on an emergency basis and as a result OPSC was forced to withdraw the emergency package and resubmit it to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) as a non-emergency regulation. This process should be completed by late April with full implementation of the new energy program by early May of this year. We will publish updates in future newsletters as they occur. □

## Estimate

» Continued from page 1

Mr. Hughes has been the Cost Estimating Specialist at Murray and Downs for the past 8 years and is a member of the American Society of Professional Estimators. His experience includes hundreds of projects, from small modernizations to complete new elementary, middle, and high school campuses. Over the 50 most recently estimated (and bid) projects representing over \$279,000,000 in actual construction costs, Mr. Hughes has maintained an average margin of error of less than 5% on his estimates. □



Embracing change, Mr. Smith tries to connect...

## Did You Know ...?

1. The vision of the California Department of Education: To create a dynamic, world-class education system that equips all students with the knowledge and skills to excel in college and careers, and excel as parents and citizens.
2. The largest and smallest California Public School District/County Office of Education in the 2004/05 school year:  
Largest: Los Angeles Unified School District: 741,367 students enrolled  
Smallest: Alpine County Office of Education: 2 students enrolled
3. The total number of public schools in California during the 2004-05 school year: 9,372
4. The total number of students in public schools in California during the 2004/05 school year: 6,322,189
5. The total number of teachers in public schools in California during the 2004/05 school year: 306,548
6. From 1986 to 2006, daylight saving time began on the first Sunday in April and continued through the last Sunday in October, but starting this year in 2007, it will be observed from the second Sunday in March (3/11/07) to the first Sunday in November (11/04/07), adding about a month to daylight saving time. □

## Staff News

### Introducing Our New Staff:



Dan Riley – A LEED Accredited Professional, Dan has been facilitating K-12 education projects in Northern California for over 10 years. In the role of Project Manager, Dan comes on board at a time when our K-12 Studio is really hopping. The timing is perfect! We are very happy that he wanted to bring his expertise to our firm. Welcome Dan!



Dwayne Treleven – Dwayne comes to Murray & Downs following a six-year tenure at HDR Architects in Folsom. Joining us in a Production Coordinator role, Dwayne brings a high level of technical skills to our Production team. We have already discovered what a great resource he can be and look forward to continued mutual growth and technical expertise in the future.



Stan Rickard – We are very pleased to welcome Stan to our firm in the role of Assistant Studio Leader in our Healthcare Studio. Stan's most recent experience was a 3 ½ year term as the Director of Facilities and Planning for the Plumas District Hospital. For 18 years prior, Stan was working on healthcare planning and development in Oregon. Stan was drawn to the beautiful foothill environment of our office location as well as the great team he gets to work with in our Healthcare Studio.



Matt Engman – Matt will be interning with us until he begins architecture school in the fall. He completed most of his undergrad studies at the campuses of the Los Rios Community College District. He is working hard on scholarships so he will be able to attend the School of the Arts in San Francisco. We are pleased to give Matt his first exposure to life in an architecture firm. □

### Promotions for 2007:

Billie McConaha – Project Manager

Eric Peterson – Project Manager

Charles Dandy – Project Manager

Tom Markes – Project Manager

Justin Wise – Drafter

Marília Araujo – Project Coordinator/Interior Design □

## New Ownership at Murray & Downs



Jeff Kennedy – K-12 Studio Leader, and new Principal at Murray & Downs! Jeff has been with the firm for over 20 years. His extensive contribution and dedication to our company, especially in the area of K-12 education projects, is admired and appreciated. We congratulate Jeff on his new role as a Principal of Murray & Downs.



Jim Traub – CFO, and new Principal at Murray & Downs! Jim has affected huge amounts of positive change in the way we interface with the project managers and clients relative to the financial side of the business. He has been with the firm for 5 years, and we welcome him as a new Principal of Murray & Downs. Congratulations! □

## Fun Facts

*There are 18 different animal shapes in the animal crackers cookie zoo.*

*Broccoli is the only vegetable that is a flower.*

*There are only four words in the English language which end in – dous: tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.*

*The five favorite U.S. school lunches nationwide, according to the American School Food Service Association, are, in order, pizza, chicken nuggets, tacos, burritos, and hamburgers.*

*Guam has seven public elementary schools.*

*Oak trees do not have acorns until they are fifty years old or older.*

*The word “mullet” describes a hairstyle worn, particularly in the southern USA, which is characterized by short hair on the top and sides, with very long hair in the back.*

*The alteration of the architectural appearance of a city by the construction of skyscrapers and high-rise buildings is known as “Manhattanization”. The term refers to the New York borough Manhattan.*

*Months that begin on a Sunday will always have a ‘Friday the 13th.’*

## Tidbit

*(Internal Office Communications)*

### Hardly Scratching the Surface

Ever wondered how you should select a chemical resistant lab top from the three primary materials available (Plastic Laminate, Solid Phenolic Core (SPC), and Epoxy Resin)? Don't be shy in asking to talk with the teacher, scientist or lab technician involved. In a discussion with the lab equipment supplier for one of our science building projects, he indicated that a lot of money was being wasted in school lab classrooms by specifying a high performance lab top when the chemicals being used wouldn't even damage a “normal” plastic laminate top. His experience showed K-8 and many high school labs would function perfectly well with standard p-lam tops. A good service to your client would be to request a list of chemicals being used - or being proposed for future use - and design around those requirements (with appropriate documentation in meeting notes of course). As an example, the McCaffrey MS science program in Galt currently uses nothing stronger than vinegar in their teaching experiments. The District involvement would be in deciding if future program changes at the site might require a higher degree of chemical resistance that would justify installation at that time. Also, verify if science program requirements, such as lab tops, are listed in the Ed Spec and conform to them.



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