



August 31, 2026

Dear Interested Parties in School Construction Projects

The Department of Conservation's California Geological Survey (CGS) has provided technical advice to the Division of State Architect on geologic hazards for proposed school construction projects throughout California since 1973. These geologic hazard reviews play an essential role in ensuring school sites are evaluated for hazards and that site conditions are appropriately considered in geotechnical design before construction begins. This work helps support the development of safer, more resilient schools for California's students and communities.

To continue providing high-quality, timely geologic review services, CGS periodically evaluates the costs associated with administering this program. Since the previous fee adjustment in 2022, the cost of providing these reviews has continued to increase due to statewide salary adjustments, inflationary pressures, investments in technology, and the resources necessary to recruit and retain qualified technical staff. Key factors contributing to this fee adjustment include:

- Continued increases in salaries and employee benefit costs for licensed Engineering Geologists and Geotechnical Engineers.
- Inflationary increases affecting operating expenses, equipment, software, training, and administrative support.
- Ongoing investments in technology and analytical tools that improve the quality, consistency, and efficiency of geologic reviews.

In addition to these factors, CGS plans to improve services to project applicants by enhancing the submission process and communication of review status and timelines. These enhancements will increase CGS's customer service by creating process certainty, efficiency, and transparency.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of this program and maintain the level of service expected by California school districts and project proponents, CGS will increase the fee for geologic reviews identified in the Work Order (CGS Form 1B) from \$4,800 to \$6,500.

The new fee will become effective October 1, 2026, and will apply to Work Orders executed on or after that date. Providing advance notice allows our partners sufficient time to plan for this adjustment during project budgeting and contracting.

CGS remains committed to delivering timely, thorough, and scientifically sound geologic reviews that help protect California's schools and the communities they serve.

If you have any questions regarding this fee adjustment, please contact us at cgshq@conservation.ca.gov.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Newton". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "J" and "N".

Jeff Newton

Chief Deputy, Operations | California Geological Survey

California Department of Conservation

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