

# BUDGET LETTER

<b>SUBJECT:</b> CAPITAL OUTLAY BUDGET PROPOSALS, FIVE-YEAR INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS, CONCEPT PAPERS, AND DEFERRED MAINTENANCE SUBMISSIONS FOR 2027-28	<b>NUMBER:</b> 26-07
<b>REFERENCES:</b> STATE ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL SEC 6800, ET. SEQ. AND AB 1473 (CHAPTER 606, STATUTES OF 1999), BL 26-05	<b>DATE ISSUED:</b> July 1, 2026
	<b>SUPERSEDES:</b> BL 25-08

TO: Agency Secretaries  
Department Directors  
Department Budget and Accounting Officers  
Department of Finance Budget and Accounting Staff

FROM: DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

**NOTE: Budget Officers are requested to forward a copy of this Budget Letter to their facilities manager as well as program personnel with capital outlay infrastructure needs.**

<b>Deadlines and Deliverables</b>	
<b>August 3, 2026 (Monday)</b>	<b>Five-Year Infrastructure Plans, Major and Minor Capital Outlay Budget Change Proposals (COBCP), and Capital Outlay Concept Papers (COCP) for 2027-28 are due to the Finance capital outlay budget analyst.</b>
<b>September 1, 2026</b>	<b>Deferred Maintenance information due to the Finance capital outlay and support budget analysts.</b>

This Budget Letter (BL) provides detailed instructions and due dates for submitting Five-Year Infrastructure Plans, Major and Minor COBCPs, COCPs, and deferred maintenance information. As a reminder, [BL 26-05](#) sets forth Finance's guidelines for preparation of the proposed 2027-28 Governor's Budget.

Five-Year Infrastructure Plans, Major and Minor COBCPs, and COCPs are due by **Monday, August 3, 2026**, and deferred maintenance information is due by **Tuesday, September 1, 2026**.

Any state agency with capital outlay needs in 2027-28 through 2031-32 must submit a Five-Year Infrastructure Plan, including the necessary COBCPs and/or COCPs as detailed in this BL.

**Confidentiality:** Until release of the Governor's Budget, all information contained in budget documents used during the Governor's Budget development process is strictly confidential. All Five-Year Infrastructure Plans, COBCPs, and COCPs not released to the Legislature by Finance indefinitely remain working papers subject to the Governor's deliberative process.

## 1. Submittal of 2027-28 Infrastructure Plans, COBCPs, and COCPs

### A. Five-Year Infrastructure Plans

The Governor is required to annually submit a Five-Year Infrastructure Plan in conjunction with the Governor's Budget. Previous Five-Year Infrastructure Plans can be found at the following link: [Historical Five-Year Infrastructure Plans](#).

### B. Major and Minor COBCPs and COCPs

- COBCPs and COCPs for all major and minor capital outlay projects proposed for the 2027-28 Governor's Budget and the 2027-28 Five-Year Infrastructure Plan must be submitted to Finance no later than **Monday, August 3, 2026**.
- Consistent with past practice, COBCP submissions for 2027-28 should be for: (a) existing or continuing capital outlay projects or (b) new capital outlay projects, if critical, such as fire and life safety or court-ordered projects. This criteria applies to all departments, including those not under the Governor's direct authority.
- Departments must provide succinct, well-written, and complete COBCPs and COCPs. Departments may provide supporting information and must not rely on providing subsequent back-up material to respond to Finance's inquiries regarding justification for the request. COBCPs and COCPs that are incomplete by virtue of failing to provide relevant, critical, and substantiating information in the initial submission will likely be returned to departments without analysis at the discretion of Finance.

Departments are encouraged to work with their Finance capital outlay budget analyst to prioritize capital outlay budget requests prior to submitting any proposals. **Requests not meeting the criteria above will not be considered for inclusion in the 2027-28 Governor's Budget.**

**Reminders:** Appropriations for studies, preliminary plans, working drawings, and performance criteria are generally available for encumbrance for one year. Acquisition, construction, design-build, and minor project appropriations are generally available for encumbrance for up to three years (see Section 1.80 of the 2026 Budget Act for the standard availability periods for all project phases).

- **Documents Required to Request Capital Outlay Funds**

- ✓ For ALL proposals: A COBCP or COCP form, a Project Cost Detail Estimate or equivalent (commonly referred to as a 3-page estimate), and a Fiscal Impact Worksheet (FIW) must be submitted to the appropriate Finance capital outlay budget analyst by **Monday, August 3, 2026**, as follows:
  1. Electronically, as Word documents, PDFs, and Excel spreadsheets (unsigned).
  2. Electronically, as PDFs with the appropriate signatures.

3. Through the Department Exchange in Hyperion (For new projects, use your department's placeholder FI\$Cal capital outlay project ID. If the project is approved for inclusion in the Governor's Budget, your Finance capital outlay budget analyst will create a new project ID prior to January 10).
- ✓ Departments must use the current COBCP forms, which are available on the [Budget Forms](#) page of Finance's website.
  - ✓ ADA-Accessible versions of these budget forms are required for all capital outlay budget requests. Please work with your Finance capital outlay budget analyst for additional information.
  - ✓ For the COBCP ([DF-151](#)), please note the "COBCP Abstract" provides a brief overview of the scope, cost, and schedule of each project utilizing the Design-Bid-Build or the Design-Build project procurement methods.
  - ✓ For the COCP ([DF-152](#)), please include study documents if a study has been used to develop the proposed project costs.
  - ✓ For reappropriations/continuing projects, the following documents should be submitted: COBCP [DF-151](#) (cover sheet and sections A and B of the COBCP Narrative only), Project Cost Detail Estimate or equivalent (three-page estimate), and a FIW ([DF-150](#)).

- **When to Prepare a COBCP**

Complete COBCPs are required for all new projects or capitalized leases proposed to be included in the 2027-28 Governor's Budget.

For continuing phases of previously funded projects, departments must submit a complete COBCP ([DF151](#)), a Project Cost Detail Estimate or equivalent (three-page estimate), and a FIW ([DF-150](#)). If the continuing project includes any changes to the cost or scope of the project, the change must be clearly identified and explained.

- **Requesting Budget Packages**

Budget packages are used to verify feasibility, scope, costs, and schedules of projects. Finance may use infrastructure planning funds for budget packages when Finance determines a budget package is desirable for a specific project and funding is not otherwise available. Departments may submit requests to Finance to fund specific budget packages or use departmental support funds to contract with the Department of General Services, Real Estate Services Division, prior to submission of COBCPs. **Regardless of funding source, departments are strongly encouraged to consult with their Finance capital outlay budget analyst on the scope of the budget package.** Completion of a budget package does not guarantee future funding of a project.

- **Agency Review and Distribution**

Five-Year Infrastructure Plans, including COBCPs and COCPs, must be approved by the Agency Secretary, as applicable, **prior to** submission to Finance. After agency approval, electronic copies as PDFs with the appropriate signatures must be submitted to Finance by the due date listed above.

- **Major Capital Outlay Budget Reminders**

- ✓ A capital outlay appropriation is required for the acquisition of real property or any lesser interest in real property (including, but not limited to, capitalized leases, easements, purchase options, and rights-of-way), except as otherwise authorized.
- ✓ All major capital outlay projects are subject to the administrative oversight of the State Public Works Board (PWB) unless specifically exempted. Departments must follow PWB and Finance administrative requirements when implementing projects. Questions on these requirements should be directed to the appropriate Finance capital outlay budget analyst.
- ✓ Funds cannot be transferred between major capital outlay projects, unless specifically authorized in the Budget Act or by other statute.

- **Minor Capital Outlay Budget Reminders**

- ✓ Minor capital outlay is any project under [\\$1,157,000](#), which has been specifically budgeted as a minor project and which a department has been authorized to implement directly pursuant to Public Contract Code section 10108.
- ✓ Natural Resources Agency capital outlay projects up to [\\$1,502,000](#) may be budgeted as minor projects with the concurrence of Finance.
- ✓ Departments may not “piecemeal” larger projects through several minor projects. This circumvents both the Administration's and Legislature's budget process.
- ✓ Minor capital outlay projects are included in the Infrastructure Plan as a lump sum for each of the five years.

## 2. **Deferred Maintenance**

Departments (with the exception of the Department of Transportation) are required to provide a detailed list of their identified deferred maintenance need, if one exists, to both their Finance capital outlay and support budget analyst by **Tuesday, September 1, 2026**. The list should include department name, project location, project title, project description, and estimated project cost. To the extent possible, the projects should be in priority order. This information should be submitted as an Excel file using the Deferred Maintenance Project List template, which is available on the [Budget Forms](#) page of Finance's website. Please note that the identified deferred maintenance needs of each department must be reviewed and approved by the respective Agency, as applicable, prior to submittal to Finance.

If you have any questions, please contact your Finance capital outlay budget analyst.

/s/ Sally Lukenbill

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