



November 25, 2015

ISSUE 85



CaLBOC: CBOC Operation Guidelines

The purpose of the Operational Guidelines is to provide a basis for the BOC to perform a self-assessment of their committee operations and identify training needs. This 18 page document could also be used as an outline for developing a training program for committee members.

Section I: Contains the Legal Requirements set forth by the *California Constitution and Education Code*

Section II: Recommended Operational Guidelines for :

- BOC Member Selection Process and Appointment
- Orientation/Training
- Role of the Bond Oversight Committee
- Public Disclosure
- Financial Audit
- Performance Audit
- Annual Report
- Access to the Governing Board and Superintendent
- Bond Issuance
- Bylaws

<http://calboc.org/docs/OperationGuidelines.pdf>

Oakland's Facilities Chief Oversees Work by His Own Company

November 21, 2015 | By Jill Tucker | www.sfchronicle.com

EXCERPT: When Oakland school officials hired an interim director of their facilities department early this year - at \$30,000 a month - they said it was temporary.

Eight months later, Lance Jackson's services still cost Oakland Unified about \$1,300 a day, nearly 30 percent more than the district superintendent's pay.

Despite his job title, Jackson isn't a district employee. He's the chief operating officer at SGI Construction Management, the company hired to manage the district's bond program, a three-year contract worth up to \$11 million.

He is both a district administrator and a contract worker, overseeing services performed by his own company, through which the \$30,000 monthly fee is paid. The arrangement has raised conflict-of-interest questions in an Oakland district with a history of financial mismanagement, including a \$100 million state bailout in 2003. ...

A renewed effort in recent months failed to find a replacement, despite 36 applicants, only two of whom were flagged for in-person interviews. The district decided this week to hire a search firm to help find a suitable candidate, Flint said. ...

While he's still an SGI employee, he said he currently works only for Oakland. ...

SGI, headquartered in Pasadena and also known as Seville Group Inc., has deep experience in construction management and has worked on more than 30 school construction bond projects since 1998.

But it has faced questions at times from communities concerned about responsible taxpayer spending on schools.

It was [sued in San Diego County](#) over its role in a pay-to-play corruption case against public officials who accepted gifts and meals from contractors - including SGI - hired to oversee the Sweetwater Union school district's bond program.

SGI also runs the \$1.6 (Billion) bond program at West Contra Costa Unified, which has come under heavy scrutiny.

A report this year by [the county's civil grand jury](#) found that the district was paying three times the state average per square foot for construction. The district is reportedly under [federal investigation](#) into the possible misuse of bond funds, with at least two board members facing questions from the Securities and Exchange Commission and the FBI. ... **To read the complete article please visit:**

www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Oakland-s-facilities-chief-oversees-work-by-his-6649232.php

Fitch: Some California School District GOs Protected in Bankruptcy

November 11, 2015 | www.businesswire.com | www.fitchratings.com

EXCERPT: NEW YORK--The 'AAA' rating recently assigned to San Diego Unified School District's (SDUSD) upcoming general obligation (GO) bond issuance could set a precedent for other school district ratings throughout California, according to Fitch Ratings in a new report.

Last week, Fitch assigned an 'AAA' rating to SDUSD's GO bonds following receipt of supporting legal opinions identifying revenues pledged to bondholders as special revenues under Chapter 9 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. Debt service payments from special revenues would be uninterrupted in the event of bankruptcy. ...

'Since there are few judicial precedents for the treatment of Proposition 39 bonds in bankruptcy, future cases could result in unanticipated outcomes,' said Laskey. Despite this uncertainty, Fitch expects that pledged revenues for such bonds would receive preferential treatment in any future bankruptcy as special revenues. ...

To read the complete press release please visit:

www.businesswire.com/news/home/20151111006140/en

In This Issue

[CBOC Best Practices Operation Guidelines](#)

[Facilities Chief Oversees Work by His Own Company](#)

[Some GO Bonds Protected in Bankruptcy](#)

[Archived Newsletters](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Mission Statement

To promote school district accountability by improving the training and resources available to California's Proposition 39 School Bond Oversight Committees and educating the state legislature, local school boards and the public about the oversight and reporting powers these Citizens' Bond Oversight Committees (CBOCs) have, and to advocate on a state level, where appropriate, on issues of common concern to all CBOCs.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Archived Newsletters

To view all with topics visit: calboc.org/reviews.html

- [ISSUE 84 - Nov. 3, 2015](#)
- [ISSUE 83-Sept. 29, 2015](#)
- [ISSUE 82- Sept 21, 2015](#)
- [ISSUE 81-Sept 11, 2015](#)
- [ISSUE 80 - Aug. 28 2015](#)
- [ISSUE 79 - July 29. 2015](#)
- [ISSUE 78 - July 13, 2015](#)
- [ISSUE 77 - June 30,2015](#)
- [ISSUE 76 - June 8, 2015](#)
- [ISSUE 75 - May 15, 2015](#)
- [ISSUE 74 - May 11, 2015](#)
- [ISSUE 73 - April 20, 2015](#)
- [ISSUE 72 - April 14, 2015](#)
- [ISSUE 71 - April 1, 2015](#)
- [ISSUE 70 - Feb. 10, 2015](#)
- [ISSUE 69 - Jan. 26, 2015](#)
- [ISSUE 68 - Jan. 14, 2015](#)
- [ISSUE 67 - Dec 31, 2014](#)
- [Nov 2014 Election Results](#)
- [ISSUE 66 - Dec. 4, 2014](#)
- [ISSUE 65 - Oct. 21 2014](#)