



## PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY for our CAPITOL

[PACAnnexProject@gmail.com](mailto:PACAnnexProject@gmail.com)

<http://savecalcap.org>

April 2, 2021

Governor Gavin Newsom  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Re: Capitol Annex Project via US mail and email

Dear Governor Newsom:

You can stop the billion-dollar Capitol Annex Project You may be the only person in the State who can do it. We believe that is what the people of this state would want you to do – if they knew about this Project.

You can advise your Department of General Services Director to reject and not certify the Draft Recirculated EIR. There have been so many errors of process and so many departures from the commitments of the EIR, I suspect your CEQA professionals are telling you the same thing. The secrecy in covering up the tree loss in the Park and the surprise of a huge interior open space not in the original requirements have created suspicion of government. If the EIR were to be certified it will not survive the appeal and expected lawsuit.

You can ask that the State Public Works Board not approve the preliminary plans and not authorize lease revenue bond sales. The scope growth and startling departure from the precepts of the Project Goals do not live up to the project management that the Board insists upon for your other projects. The surprise “crystal palace,” 100% glass skin shown last week cannot claim to be harmonious with the 1860’s Capitol. The addition of two “mezzanine” floor levels confirms that the early Joint Rules complaints about “mismatched floors” were dishonest red herrings. The project designers just moved the ramps and stairs 50 feet to the east.

It is becoming more apparent that prudent restoration and rehabilitation of the historic State Capitol Annex, combined with the LOB and the Swing Space building, provide more than enough square footage for the Legislature. And the costs of that space will be a fraction of where the Capitol Annex Project costs are heading.

You should do these things because the public will applaud a clear-eyed leader saying, “I am withdrawing support for a project that proved to not be an effective use of our monies at this time. Our priorities are climate change preparedness, particularly fire preparedness, and COVID support to communities and Californians.”

We would be glad to discuss these issues with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dick Cowan". The signature is fluid and connected, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY FOR OUR CAPITOL  
By Dick Cowan