Happy Earth Day!

Coba’s Capitol Comments

WEBINAR: How Is COVID-19 Impacting Design Professionals? – April 24

PPP Increase Act of 2020
Summary of $483 billion supplemental package

ACEC Expands Research & Thought Leadership Capabilities

ACEC Engineering Influence Podcasts

Coba’s Capitol Comments

Governor Brown is continuing to plan for the timing and process for reopening business and other activities in Oregon. Reports earlier this week indicate a phased approach may be the lead concept with various types of businesses and other activities rolled out in May, depending upon final approval by
health care leaders, in a three-phase process. While still a draft document, the first phase would target eight types of businesses and activities including restaurants, gyms, bars, personal services such as massage and barbers, and others. The draft plan also requires county leaders to request the reopening of their respective jurisdictions with a signed affidavit from local health care professionals. Schools in Oregon would remain closed until fall although in several states there has been suggestions that traditional school may not open in the fall of 2020 but be delayed until the second semester or even to provide online education for the entire year.

The legislative Emergency Board will convene a virtual meeting at 10:00 A.M. Thursday to allocate more than $30 million in emergency funding to support Oregonians in need of relief due to the coronavirus global pandemic. Funds will be dedicated to support workers and small businesses, as well as provide housing assistance to vulnerable Oregonians. Additionally, the Emergency Board will increase federal spending limits to access relief in the CARES Act.

Below is a more detailed breakdown of what the Emergency Board funding will include:

- **$12 million – Safe Shelter and Rental Assistance**
  Rental assistance and safe shelter alternatives for individuals who have lost income due to COVID-19 and shelter for individuals at risk of infection or health problems due to inadequate shelter or housing.

- **$10 million – Oregon Worker Relief Fund**
  Payments to workers ineligible for wage replacement payments from traditional unemployment insurance programs or unable to qualify for unemployment benefits due to immigration status.

- **$10 million* – Small Business Assistance**
  Establishes an assistance program for small businesses with no more than 25 employees impacted by COVID-19 economic restrictions that have not received support from the federal CARES Act. *The $10 million small business assistance program will include $5 million from the Emergency Fund matched with $5 million from existing funds in the executive branch’s Business, Innovation and Trade Division.

- **$2 million – Domestic Violence Housing Support**
  Emergency housing for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Full details of the Emergency Board meeting are available [here](https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2019I1/Committees/EB/Overview).

The meeting will be held online and streamed live, which can be accessed from the OLIS Emergency Board page at this link: [https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2019I1/Committees/EB/Overview](https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2019I1/Committees/EB/Overview).

The May 20 revenue forecast will be a critical indicator of the near-term future of governmental functions across the state. Massive cuts may be necessary as revenue may be billions short of budgeted...
amounts. States are advocating for the next federal stimulus package to prop up state and local governments with billions of dollars to allow them to continue to provide service levels like what we have today. Senate Republicans have been slow to warm up to the idea.

House Democrats have come up with a clever way to raise funds from lobbyists by hosting a series of Zoom events over the internet. Instead of waiting for opportunities to meet in person, these events would somehow allow interaction between advocates and legislators and candidates. The events will begin on May 5.

WEBINAR

**How is COVID-19 Impacting Design Firms?** – April 24

Join experts from Alliant Insurance Services and Lane Powell to explore how COVID-19 is impacting design professional’s professional liability insurance and your daily practice.

**TOPICS**

- New risks and benefits
- Essential vs. non-essential services
- Potential insurance recoveries
- Insurance market update

**SPEAKERS**

- Jennifer Beyerlein, Shareholder, Construction Team Chair, Lane Powell
- Chris Brumfield, Professional Liability Advisor, Alliant Insurance Services
- Andrew Gabel, Shareholder, Lane Powell
- Jay Soroka, Senior Vice President Professional Liability, Alliant Insurance Services

Complimentary for ACEC Oregon members.

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

https://LanePowell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9dYLoKXZQd-UoeqhOlFnQA
Paycheck Protection Program Increase Act of 2020

Section-by-Section

Summary of the $483 billion supplemental package agreed to Monday, which includes $310 billion in additional funding for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) as well as assistance to hospitals. The bill was cleared by the Senate unanimously, and it’s expected the House will vote to approve the package on Thursday.

Section 1. Short Title
Section 2. Table of Contents

Division A—Small Business Programs

• Section 101: Amends the Paycheck Protection Program, economic injury disaster loans, and emergency grants.
• Section 102: Emergency designation.

Section 3. References

References made in this Act are made, and applicable, only to Division A of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (P.L. 116-136).

Division A—Small Business Programs

Section 101. Amendments to the Paycheck Protection Program, Economic Injury Disaster Loans, and Emergency Grants

• Increases the authorization level for the Paycheck Protection Program from $349 billion to $659 billion.
• Increases the appropriation level for the Paycheck Protection Program from $349 billion to $670 billion.
• Increases the authorization level for the Emergency Economic Injury Disaster (EIDL) Grants from $10 billion to $20 billion.
• Allows agricultural enterprises as defined by section 18(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 647(b)) with not more than 500 employees to receive EIDL grants and loans.
• Creates a set-aside for Insured Depository Institutions, Credit Unions, and Community Financial Institutions for the Paycheck Protection Program.
• Defines Community Financial Institutions as minority depository institutions, certified development companies, microloan intermediaries, and State or Federal Credit Unions.

This section sets aside the following amounts for the Paycheck Protection Program to be made by the following institutions:

• $30 billion for loans made by Insured Depository Institutions and Credit Unions that have assets between $10 billion and $50 billion; and
• $30 billion for loans made by Community Financial Institutions, Small Insured Depository Institutions, and Credit Unions with assets less than $10 billion.

Section 102. Emergency Designation
Designates the amounts provided under Division as emergency spending for budgetary purposes.

Title II. Independent Agencies
Small Business Administration
- Appropriates an additional $2.1 billion for the Salaries and Expenses account to remain available until September 30, 2021.
- Appropriates an additional $50 billion for the Disaster Loans Program Account to remain available until expended.
- Appropriates an additional $10 billion for Emergency EIDL Grants to remain available until expended.

ACEC Expands Research & Thought Leadership Capabilities

ACEC announced it is expanding its research and thought leadership capabilities with the formation of the ACEC Research Institute. The Institute replaces ACEC’s former Research and Management Foundation and will work to become the leading source of knowledge and thought leadership for creating a more sustainable, safe, secure and technically advanced built environment.

“ACEC’s membership is comprised of thousands of firms that represent the full scope of a vibrant industry that contributes billions of dollars to America’s economy every year, and improves our lives on a daily basis,” said ACEC President and CEO Linda Bauer Darr. “The ACEC Research Institute will provide our industry with cutting edge trend data, research and analysis to help firm owners make decisions and arm the Council with information to explain engineering’s essential value to a broad audience.”
research and analysis to help firm owners make decisions and arm the Council with information to explain engineering’s essential value to a broad audience.”

The ACEC Research Institute’s mission is to deliver knowledge and business strategies that guide and elevate the engineering industry by:

- Identifying, funding and providing industry wide research, forecasts, and trend analysis.
- Capitalizing on the rapidly changing nature of technology and society to ensure a sustainable engineering industry.
- Promoting the engineering profession’s essential value to society.
- Inspiring future generations to solve the world’s most challenging problems through engineering.

ACEC Engineering Influence podcasts

- A Conversation with Langan’s CEO, Dave Gockel, on COVID-19 Response and the USNS Comfort
- Coronavirus Special: Government Affairs Update for 4-9-20
- Business Continuity and Adaptation in the Time of Covid-19

UPCOMING

- May 5 – USACE Liaison Committee meeting
- May 12 – From Doer to Leader: Lessons Learned

Comments? Questions? Please e-mail mwebber@acecOregon.org or adavis@acecOregon.org.

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Upcoming events: http://www.acecoregon.org/calendar_list.asp.

ACEC Oregon is 122 member firms strong representing more than 3,800 employees!
Check out our online directory at http://www.acecoregon.org/AF_MemberDirectory.asp.

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