ALTERNATIVES TO CAPITOL ANNEX PROJECT TO BE PRESENTED TUESDAY

On Tuesday, May 16th, Public Accountability for our Capitol (PAC) will present two feasible alternatives to the Capitol Annex Project. Poster boards of the new PAC alternatives will be available for the public and press to review.   Historic architecture and building construction experts will be available for interviews.

The Third District, Court of Appeal ruling requires the Department of General Services (DGS) and Joint Rules Committee (JRC) to revise the project's environmental impact report (REIR) to adequately analyze impacts and consider alternatives that can feasibly lessen negative impacts to the historic West Lawn and design of the new Annex Building, among other issues. (See Court ruling excerpts on page 2)

To address the project's deficiencies, the Department of General Services (DGS) is holding a public hearing to take comments from the community. At this meeting, PAC members will present two alternatives to the project:

1) Relocation of the Visitor Center from the historic West Lawn to the north side of the historic Capitol that eliminates all negative impacts to the historic West Lawn, its pedestrian walkways, historic uses and topography. Rather than trying to find a feasible alternative, DGS continues to argue that the Visitor Center is only feasible on the west side of the historic 1870 Capitol.

2) A revised design for the new Annex Building that lessen impacts created by the larger Annex building and its design that is inconsistent with the 1870 historic Capitol. The PAC alternative meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and DGS's functional requirements for a new Annex building, such as square footage, floor layouts and galleria.

DGS PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING: Revised Environmental Impact Report (REIR)
for the Capitol Annex Project
When: Tuesday, May 16th, 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm
Where: Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, East Room, 828 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

BACKGROUND

The Third Appellate District, Court of Appeal Ruling
Save The Capitol, Save the Trees (Court Case C096637)

The ruling allows the demolition of the East Annex building, but requires DGS and JRC to adequately analyze impacts and consider alternatives that feasibly lessen impacts to historic resources before proceeding with Annex construction. Several excerpts from the ruling:

"It is state policy under CEQA "to [t]ake all action necessary to *provide the people of this state with…enjoyment of aesthetic, natural, scenic, and historic environmental qualities."* (Section 21001, subd. (b)" Aesthetic issues "include impacts on public and private views and *on the <u>historic character of the project site and surrounding area</u>*. (Preserve Poway v. City of Poway, supra, 245 Cal.App.4th at 5. 577)" (Court ruling, page 39) (emphasis added)

"Here the historic value of the State capitol complex, *the importance of the view of the west facade of the Historic Capitol and the <u>importance of considering the impact of aesthetic changes</u> on both cannot be overstated.* Indeed, this value is reflected in statutes that govern Capitol area planning." (Court ruling, page 39-40) (emphasis added)

"Because the changed project description happened in the final EIR, the conflicting descriptions in the earlier EIRs may have misled the public about the nature of the Annex's design and adversely affected their ability to comment on it. When they commented on the earlier EIRs, *the <u>public believed only that the new Annex's design and materials would be consistent with the Historic Capitol and create a "one-building" feel.</u> The unstable description of the new Annex's exterior design literally drew a "red herring across the path of public input."* (County of Inyo, supra, 71 Cal.App.3d at p. 198.) <u>*It prevented the people from comments on significant environmental effects on what is truly the people's capitol."*</u> (Court Ruling, page 16.) (emphasis added)