



ARTHUR TAM & ASSOCIATES
ARCHITECT • PLANNER • INTERIOR

August 16, 2004

Aneida Ramirez
Office of Public School Construction
1130 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814-2928

re: Fee Schedule for Architectural Services

Dear Ms. Ramirez

I have been looking for information regarding architectural fees and have had no success. Many School Districts utilize a formula for determining the fees t pay to architects who are providing design services. Occasionally this will be a fixed percentage of the construction cost, however more often it is a sliding scale wherein, on a modernization project for example, the fee is 12% of the first \$500K, 11.5% of the next \$500K, etc.

This fee schedule or formula is often referred to as the OPSC Schedule or the Leroy Green Formula. Many Districts in Northern California utilize this fee scale, however nowhere can I find any background information on this subject. I have tried the OPSC, CASH, CDE and AIA websites to no avail. Standard search engines likewise turn up no data.

From whence does this formula originate? What services is it intended to cover? Was it actually developed by Leroy Green?

This may seem trivial, however a history of this would help immensely to resolve some heated discussions related to fees and services. If anyone can help me by providing some documentation or directing me to a web site for information, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance. I look forward to hearing from you.

Very Truly Yours,

Marcus A. Hibser - Principal



State of California • Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State and Consumer Services Agency

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

Interagency Support Division • Office of Public School Construction

December 1, 2004

Mr. Marcus A. Hibser
Principal
Arthur Tam & Associates
300 27th Street, 2nd floor
Oakland, CA 94612

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Arthur Tam & Assoc. Inc.
Oakland

Dear Mr. Hibser:

Thank you for your letter dated August 16, 2004, regarding the schedule for architectural services. Please excuse this tardy written reply.

In your letter you request information with regards to where the formula originated, the services it is intended to cover, and if Senator Leroy F. Greene had developed the formula.

In response to your questions, the fee schedule was generated with the help of the American Institute of Architects during the inception of the Lease Purchase Program (LPP). The fee schedule was used to determine the maximum eligible architect fees funded under the LPP. Currently, it is used as a guide when an audit is being conducted for a project funded under the School Facilities Program (SFP). The services that the fee schedule is intended to cover are basic design services up to the point of approval of the plans by the Division of the State Architect. This applies for both programs, LPP and SFP.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at aramirez@dgs.ca.gov or (916) 324-5703 or Ms. Roxana Saravia at rsaravia@dgs.ca.gov or (916) 323-3871.

Sincerely,

ANEIDA RAMIREZ
Project Manager
Office of Public School Construction

AR:lm

cc: Project File