



The State Bar *of California*

Approval of July 2024 Bar Exam Administration and Testing Locations; Approval of Related Contracts

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Background and Discussion Overview



Structural budget issues:

- Approved fee increases close most, but not all, of the funding gap



Further Cost reductions:

- Bar exam is Admissions' highest cost program
 - **Feb 2024:** Board approved reduced number of facilities
 - **July 2024:** Staff explored other cost cutting measures (inc. one-day remote)



Other considerations:

- Exam security/integrity
- Testing Accommodations
- Risk of technological failure



Summary of Staff Findings



ExamSoft platform remains incompatible with many testing accommodations



Record-and-review proctoring is labor-intensive (hidden costs)



New vendors are promising but untested at the scale of bar exam; further validation is required



In-home proctoring presents risks re: safety, no shows, liability



Test center capacity limitations; further exploration required



Staff Recommendation: Reduced Number of Facilities

July 2023 Facilities	July 2024 Confirmed Facilities
Pasadena Convention Center	Pasadena Convention Center
Ontario Convention Center	Ontario Convention Center
Oakland Convention Center	Oakland Convention Center
Los Angeles Convention Center	Anaheim Convention Center
SAFE Credit Union Convention Center (Sacramento)	@The Grounds (Sacramento)
Town and Country Resort (San Diego)	Olympic Training Center (Chula Vista)**
Santa Clara Convention Center	--
July 2023 TA Only Facilities	July 2024 Confirmed TA Only Facilities
Hilton Sacramento Arden West	Hilton Sacramento Arden West
DoubleTree Santa Ana	DoubleTree Orange
Sheraton Gateway Los Angeles	State Bar (Los Angeles)*
Crowne Plaza San Francisco Airport Hotel	Judicial Council (San Francisco)*
Sheraton Mission Valley (San Diego)	University of San Diego*,**
Hilton Culver City (Los Angeles)	--

*Facilities providing space at no-charge.

**Olympic Training Center may allow for testing accommodations to be administered in lieu of USD.



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How Did We Arrive at this Recommendation?



Reduced number of facilities model balances cost reductions and other considerations



Reduced number of facilities model:

- Satisfactory exam security
- A more uniform experience for those with testing accommodations
- Limits possibility for errors



One-day remote exam models:

- Technology risks
- Limited testing accommodations compatibility
- Scalability
- Exam security/integrity
- Significant cost savings



July 2024 Facilities and Contracting

July 2024 Confirmed Facilities	July 2024 Contracting Pending Board Approval
Pasadena Convention Center	\$148,305
Ontario Convention Center	\$174,850
Hilton Sacramento Arden West*	\$119,600
Anaheim Convention Center	\$82,600
Oakland Convention Center	\$150,000
@The Grounds (Sacramento)	\$85,000
Olympic Training Center (Chula Vista)**	\$200,000
DoubleTree Orange*	Approved Nov. 2022
State Bar (Los Angeles)*	--
Judicial Council (San Francisco)*	--
University of San Diego*,**	--

*Facilities available to test takers with testing accommodations only.

**Olympic Training Center may allow for testing accommodations to be administered in lieu of USD.



Action Needed

- Board is asked today to approve the reduced number of facilities model for the July 2024 bar exam administration, continuing the same approach as Feb 2024.
- Board is asked to approve contracting for the facilities confirmed to-date.
- Board is asked to delegate authority to approve the contracts for any unconfirmed facilities to the Board chair.



Questions

