



Phone: (225) 316-1346 Email: jpurpera@bellsouth.net

*“SPECIALIZING IN STATE CAPITAL OUTLAY PROCESS CONSULTING
FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NON-PROFIT ENTITIES”*

STATE CAPITAL OUTLAY NEWSLETTER January – June 2019 FOR LaMATS MEMBERS

“What types of projects qualify for consideration in the State Capital Outlay Program?”

- Eligible projects would include but not be limited to: land acquisition; site development and improvement; acquisition, construction or renovation of buildings; public infrastructure: water, sewer and wastewater, drainage, roads and bridges; recreation; economic development
- Capital Outlay is not for operating or routine maintenance expenses.
- Projects should have an anticipated useful life of 20 years or more.
- Projects must be for a “public purpose”.

“Who can apply for State Capital Outlay funding?”

State Agencies, Local Government Entities, and Non-Profit Organizations are eligible to apply for State Capital Outlay funding.

STATE CAPITAL OUTLAY PROGRAM CALENDAR OF KEY EVENTS January – June 2019

Jan - Mar	The Division of Administration will be completing their review of Capital Outlay Budget Requests and will develop recommendations for the Governor to consider in his Capital Outlay recommendations. These recommendations become the Governor’s Original Capital Outlay Budget Bill (House Bill No. 2).
February 1	Last day for Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay to meet to consider approval of Late Capital Outlay Request submittals. After February 1 st , there is a separate process for Late Approval, but it is limited to “emergency” or “economic development” projects.
April 8	2019 Regular Legislative Session starts.
April 15	Governor submits Capital Outlay Budget Bill (House Bill No. 2) to the Legislature.
June 6	2019 Regular Legislative Session ends.

OUTLOOK FOR CAPITAL OUTLAY FUNDING:

The outlook for Capital Outlay funding for the 2019 Legislative Session should be much better than it has been in recent years primarily for the following reasons:

- The election for Governor and the Legislature is scheduled for November 2019, and election years have traditionally been good for Capital Outlay.
- The recently approved sales tax extension should keep the State Revenue situation in good shape through 2025 so the Governor and Legislators will not be able to use the “fiscal cliff” argument as a reason to not help you with your Capital Outlay Requests in the 2019 Legislative Session.
- For the past three years, the Administration slowed down the addition of new projects to the State Capital Outlay Budget. This slow-down decreased the multi-year backlog of approved projects waiting for funding; and has allowed projects with actual funding to get to the point where they can be given the OK to proceed more quickly. A State Bond Sale planned for February 2019, should replenish the Capital Outlay Escrow Account to the level at which more “funded” projects will be given the OK to proceed.

.....

Through an agreement with LaMATS, James Purpera (former State Capital Outlay Budget Analyst) will provide LaMATS members with two Capital Outlay newsletters per year; several instructional webinars; and will also provide each member with up to one hour of consultation per year by phone or email to answer questions about any part of the State Capital Outlay process.

Additional consulting services, tailored to individual client needs, will be negotiated directly between you and James Purpera. The following resume and testimonial comments from a few full service clients, gives more information about the full range of services available from James Purpera Governmental Consulting.

RESUME

James Purpera is not a lobbyist, but with over 30 years of experience in Louisiana state government and another 10 years as a private consultant, he is equipped to be able to provide valuable advice and assistance to you in your efforts to seek Capital Outlay funding for your projects and to maneuver through the legislative and bureaucratic process. In addition to advice and assistance provided in response to individual client issues, James Purpera also provides email newsletters and other email and phone updates throughout the annual State Budget process: to provide status reports about what is going on in the Capital Outlay process; to advise and remind clients about what they should be doing at each step in the process to maximize chances for success; and to help clients (and their engineers and architects) understand the technical and paperwork requirements of the process before and after a project is funded. James Purpera’s clients include ports, airports, municipalities, parish and other governmental entities, non-profit organizations, and lobbyists.

No one can guarantee success but as a former State Budget Analyst **James Purpera understands how and when decisions are made in the State Budget process; and understands the bureaucratic process that funded projects have to maneuver through.**

Testimonial Comments from some of James Purpera's Clients

“James Purpera’s expertise in the Capital Outlay process is invaluable to the Port of South Louisiana’s success in securing funding for infrastructure projects.”

Joel Chaisson, Executive Director (retired), Port of South Louisiana

“James, thanks for the great work. We are realizing how little we knew of this process and how valuable your services are.”

Michel H. Claudet, (former)Terrebonne Parish President

The capital outlay process is very complicated and confusing to most but James Purpera has made it simple and successful for the Port Of Terrebonne.

David Rabalais, Executive Director, Terrebonne Port Commission

“James Purpera has proven to be an expert teacher of the legislature’s budget process and the bond process. His patient guidance and timely information have helped our staff and board. What may seem unusually complex becomes quite clear with James’ updates and suggestions. It has been both a privilege and a comfort to work with him.”

Julia Bland, Executive Director, Louisiana Children’s Museum

“James has been an invaluable asset to the Port in managing the intricacies of the Capital Outlay process and consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty to provide services.”

Wyly Gilfoil, Director, Lake Providence Port Commission

“James Purpera has been a tremendous asset to the Town of St. Francisville with his knowledge and experience of the capital outlay process. He helped the town obtain funds for a canal project which we have been working on for years. His level of expertise and service has gone above and beyond our expectations.”

Billy D’Aquila, Mayor, Town of St. Francisville

“James Purpera Governmental Consulting has kept our organization up to date on the capital outlay process and other governmental funding opportunities. His guidance and constant updates on the legislative process have been invaluable.”

Nancy Vinci, President, Julius Freyhan Foundation

“James Purpera was hired on an annual contract during 2008 and has a continuing contract with the Baton Rouge Airport. Mr. Purpera has 30 years’ experience with the State of Louisiana and is an expert on Capital Outlay issues. He is a tremendous asset to our team and we intend on continuing his consulting services.”

Anthony Marino, Director of Aviation (retired), Baton Rouge Metro Airport

About James Purpera's Experience and Consulting Services

In October 2007, with more than 30 years of state government experience, James Purpera started a consulting business and is now using his knowledge and solid understanding of the art and science of state government and the political process to assist local government entities and non-profit organizations in their efforts to successfully maneuver through the State Capital Outlay Process.

James Purpera has extensive experience in the State Capital Outlay process having worked for the Division of Administration (Facility Planning & Control) as a Budget Analyst and Budget Manager in the Capital Outlay program, and then having worked for the Legislature as a Budget Analyst for the Ways and Means Committee and the Appropriations Committee.

James Purpera has long been recognized for his expertise in the area of State Budgets, particularly the Capital Outlay Budget. James Purpera has had articles about the Capital Outlay process published in the Louisiana Municipal Review and in the Ports Association of Louisiana newsletter. In addition, he has conducted Capital Outlay instructional classes for various organizations.

James Purpera understands the technical requirements which are essential to make a request, and he understands that "appropriate" follow-up strategy at every step in the process is what gives a request its best chance for funding.

If you have an interest in requesting Capital Outlay funding, but lack the knowledge of the process, staff or time to keep up with the rules, prepare an effective request or follow-up strategy, then James Purpera may be able to assist you.

The Capital Outlay Request is the most straight forward part of the process, so if you have already submitted a request, James Purpera may be able to assist you with tracking and follow-up strategy so that your request does not miss any opportunities for consideration.

If you have a project that has already been funded, but lack the knowledge of the process, staff or time to keep up with the paperwork and other bureaucratic requirements, then James Purpera can help you understand the bureaucracy that funded projects have to maneuver through.

James Purpera's fees for service will vary based on the type of service needed.