

Read Me for *.CAL Format*

The law requires the California Secretary of State (SOS) to define standardized record formats for individuals, firms and businesses to submit electronic filings regarding campaign financing or lobbying services. The SOS accepts test files from vendors to ensure compliance and compatibility with these formats, and publishes a list of the vendors certified to provide electronic filing services.

This document contains the design definition of the California Electronic Filing Format for state campaign finance and lobbying activity disclosure documents. This non-proprietary format defines the order and contents of the electronic data files that will be accepted by the State's CAL-ACCESS (California Automated Lobbying & Campaign Contribution & Expenditure Search System). The filing format is in the public domain and there are no intellectual property limitations associated with the format.

This filing format was the basis for the design of the CAL-ACCESS system and is used to receive filings from software that uses the .CAL format. The file named [MapCalFormat2Fields.pdf](#) has a map of the fields defined in this document to database field. The exported data from the CAL-ACCESS database contains the field names from the tables. The field names may not accurately represent the content of the field. It is important to refer to the map to ensure the correct field is specified for data retrieval.