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By Sharokina B10

State workers want new structure to replace BOE building

Safety problems within state building continue

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SACRAMENTO, Calif. (KCRA) — The clamor for a new state Board of Equalization building is growing as safety problems within the structure continue -- the building is infamous for the scaffolding outside which is meant to protect people from falling windows.

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Lawmakers said Thursday it's time to ditch a 24-story state-owned building in downtown Sacramento where windows keep popping out, the elevator has fallen and pipes have burst.



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Some of the agency's 2,500 employees met Wednesday with Assemblyman Roger Dickinson, D-Sacramento, who has introduced a bill that would start the planning process for a new building.

Watch report: Workers push for new BOE building amid continuous problems

The planning process alone would amount to \$3 million, and a new building could cost hundreds of millions.

Dickinson said the alternative is to spend more money on repairs and maintenance.

"Does it make sense to continue to spend on this building -- maybe as much as \$150 million -- which would mean we would in fact, essentially buy this building three times over?" Dickinson said.

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The state is paying more than \$1 million per year just for air monitors because of a mold problem.

A spokesman for the state's Department of General Services, which is responsible for the building, said that problem is now contained. But some state workers aren't convinced.

"I've had asthma," said Luella Vaughn, who has worked for the Board of Equalization for seven years. "I get sicker. I keep a cold."

A new problem arose just a few days ago -- a pump that moves water up and down the 24 floors of the building is not working properly.

Until it's fixed, the building is being monitored 24 hours a day in case of a fire.

The DGS spokesman said that the pump is a "wear and tear" problem and is not related to the larger issues the building has.

What's not clear is why the state spent taxpayer money to buy the structure in the 1990s.

"It's a mystery to me about the state after it occupied this building for a number of years and the problems started to emerge, nonetheless, decided to buy it anyway," Dickinson said.

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