

Energy - Docket Optical System

TN 72027

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From: Chris Benker [Chris.Benker@lmsvsd.k12.ca.us]
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 2:31 PM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System
Subject: Docket Number 13-CCEJA-1; "Comments on Prop 39"

I attended the public comments meeting today at the San Diego County library in Lemon Grove, Ca.

I just wanted to support Christina Becker's (Director of M&O in Santee School District) and the Asst. Supt. of Business from Lemon Grove (a lady who's name I didn't get) comments.

First off - the "guidelines" are FAR from being simple - especially the 8 steps to apply!! For most school districts, who have taken HUGE cuts - especially in the Facilities area (since most School Boards keep the cuts away from the classroom, so consider M&O "superfluous"), there is NO staff to spend the time and energy filling out all this required paperwork. We still have to maintain our facilities!!

And at the meeting the question was asked, and answer given, that the "Energy Manger" position is intended to be an in-house staff member. In order to accomplish this application, our District was looking to hire an **outside** Energy Manger. And while the guidelines seem to indicate that you can do this (with an advance of your first years funds?), the answer given today seems to contradict this!

Another GREAT point that the Asst. Supt. from Lemon Grove pointed out is that most school Districts can only perform projects during breaks or summer. We have to have contractors fingerprinted and/or background checked if they will be on site while children are present. Not to mention ensure the safety of the children - almost impossible to do while school is in session!!

And another item that was pointed out had to do with School District's requirement to deal with DSA (Division of State Architect). If a project has to go to DSA, it will add between 6 months and 1 year before you can even **start to think about** getting a contractor on site! Another item pointed out was if you have any projects with an open "A" number, DSA will not issue you a project number / permit for anything new. And because of DSA's backlog (and habit of misplacing things, causing you to re-submit!), there's no telling how long it might be before you get approved for a Prop 39 project.

And it was asked about getting pre-approval to use funds for hiring an Energy Manager - the answer was that CDE is handling those applications. But it wasn't sure if / when the applications would be available (maybe November?). And since nobody from CDE was present....

The biggest concern I have is that the public is being told these funds are available to schools, but given the above "roadblocks" it will once again appear to the public that, "Public schools don't know what they're doing / don't spend funds efficiently".

Hopefully you will get enough comments that you can **really** make this process simple, and allow Districts to utilize the funds available ASAP, and accomplish the intent of the voters.

Respectfully,

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