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Reopen CalSHAPE Ventilation Program Applications and Give Schools Access to Available Funds

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



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20 DECEMBER 2024

California Energy Commission

715 P Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Reopen CalSHAPE Ventilation Program Applications & Give Schools Access to Available Funds

Dear Commissioners of the California Energy Commission,

We respectfully urge the CEC to reopen the CalSHAPE Ventilation Program. While we understand there are deadline concerns, in conversations with numerous districts throughout California, many are ready to execute projects totaling over \$100 million well before the October 31, 2026, deadline. This readiness underscores the importance of ensuring access to these critical resources.

Our position is based on the following:

- **18 Months is Sufficient:** From our experience, 18 months is ample time for LEAs to execute their projects and fulfill reporting requirements, provided there are no major procedural changes during the implementation phase.
- **Avoid Mid-Program Changes:** Significant delays experienced during the Assessment & Maintenance phase were largely caused by abrupt changes to reporting protocols mid-program. By maintaining a stable and consistent process, we can avoid similar disruptions moving forward.
- **CEC Procedural Efficiencies:** Reporting review times have exceeded 90-120 days, reconciliation reviews have taken more than 200 days, and grant payments have been delayed by up to 60 days. By expediting internal review and reconciliation processes, the CEC can ensure schools have the support needed to execute their projects within the proposed 18-month horizon.

We urge the CEC to:

1. Reopen U&R applications and set a new application deadline of March 31, 2025.
2. Expedite the review of assessment reports for the Assessment & Maintenance (A&M) phase of the program to give LEAs an opportunity to apply for the U&R phase.
3. Streamline application processing timelines for the Upgrades & Repair (U&R) phase.

These measures will ensure that more schools can benefit from the available resources, enabling timely construction and fostering safer, healthier classrooms across the state.

Thank you for considering this important request. We remain committed to collaborating with the CEC to achieve the goals of the CalSHAPE program.

Sincerely,



Gontorwon Borh, Esq.
Director of Public Policy