

DOCKETED

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Forks of Salmon School District

October 7, 2016

The Honorable Andrew McAllister
Commissioner, California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Commissioner McAllister:

On behalf of ***Forks of Salmon Elementary***, I am writing to express strong support for a one-year extension of the Proposition 39 K-12 Program encumbrance deadline, from **June 30, 2018 to June 30, 2019**, which would also allow for a one-year extension of the deadline for LEAs to submit energy expenditure plans (EEPs).

An extension of these deadlines is critical to allow the necessary time to ensure that Proposition 39 dollars are spent effectively and appropriately.

In concert with the California Department of Education, the CEC has adopted a definition of "encumbrance" per the California Education Accounting Manual as a "commitment in the form of a purchase order or offer to buy goods or services." This definition was announced earlier in the year, along with the final deadline of August 1, 2017 for school and county boards to submit EEPs. These deadlines essentially reduce, by a full year, the period of time available to gather and analyze the local data needed to submit an effective and publicly transparent EEP.

Under the current EEP submission and encumbrance deadlines, it is likely that our district and others will not have ample time to ensure that an EEP is properly aligned with the specific needs of local schools. Also, since the current EEP deadline occurs *before* allocations are made from the CDE to the Proposition 39 program for 2017-18, LEAs would be forced to submit an EEP based on estimates and guesses, not on the actual amount of the allocations.

For these reasons, I strongly support a one-year extension of the encumbrance date, so that LEAs have the necessary time to collect and analyze the necessary local data, and that EEPs may be prepared and submitted with a full understanding of available funds.

Sincerely,

Christina M. Cafferata

Administrator

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