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Docket 19-IEPR-06 - 2019 California Energy Efficiency Action Plan

May 13, 2019

Clean Energy Jobs Creation Fund School Energy Efficiency Funding

The School Energy Coalition (SEC), a statewide organization made up of public school districts, community colleges, school construction and energy consultants focused on energy and water projects that benefit California's students by lowering operational costs, requests that the Clean Energy Jobs Creation Fund (aka Proposition 39) for future K-14 school energy projects be continued and included in the 2019 California Energy Efficiency Action Plan.

\$300 million per year in grant funding would continue a successful K-14 school program to install energy efficiency and renewable energy measures "with a 98% public school participation rate. This is possible without budget disruption in other areas because the "single sales factor" corporate tax revenue funding source remains in place. Half of the revenue from this change -- approved by the voters through Proposition 39 in November 2012 -- has generated an average of \$349 million dollars per year from 2012-2018 and has been fully utilized by schools. Our public school and community colleges know they can achieve more energy efficiencies and savings.

Because of the Proposition 39 program, schools now know how much electricity they are using at the district wide level. More importantly, because of the benchmarking required under the program they also know what energy measures they would like to install next "whether it be deeper energy retrofits to get closer to zero-net, more lighting across additional campuses or renewable power with battery storage to make them more resilient - and keep the lights on in case of emergency or natural disaster. By making our classroom air quality and campus indoor and outdoor lighting better they also improve academic performance and safety.

The school energy projects made possible through the Proposition 39 program have been a smart investment of state taxpayer dollars, creating local green jobs, while lowering greenhouse gas emissions (GhG) by an estimated 178,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent and creating cost savings of an estimated \$97 million statewide.

The Proposition 39 program also has had tremendous oversight. The Citizens Oversight Board that oversees and audits the program has recommended that a minimum of \$175 million annually for this important school energy efficiency program in their annual report to the Legislature.

We urge you to consider adding additional funding to the California Energy Efficiency Action Plan so that more projects can move forward using the data and benchmarking that has already been collected under the original program.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this request. SEC members stand ready to assist.

Please contact me with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dave Walrath
Executive Director