

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION
AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

DOCKET

11-OII-01

DATE JUN 29 2011

RECD. JUL 08 2011

In the matter of:)
) Docket: 11-OII-01
Developing Guidelines for the)
Clean Energy Partnership)
Academies Program) Order No. 11-0629-23

ORDER INSTITUTING INFORMATIONAL PROCEEDING

I. AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE OF THE PROCEEDING

This order institutes a proceeding to develop and adopt guidelines in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), pursuant to Education Code sections 54698 – 54699.1, as enacted by Senate Bill x1 1 (SB1X1, Stats. 2011, 1st Ex. Sess., ch.2); and pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 25210 and 25218, subdivision (e), and Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1222, subdivision (b).

The purpose of adopting the guidelines is to ensure school programs receiving Clean Energy Partnership Academy grants from the SPI reflect state energy policies and priorities, and that the school programs provide skills and education linked to the current needs of clean energy industries. The guidelines will be developed as part of a public process in coordination with the SPI (through the Department of Education), school districts and other educational institutions, industry employers, other interested stakeholders, and members of the public.

II. BACKGROUND

SB 1X1 allocates \$8 million in funding annually to the SPI to implement and administer a grant program to fund clean energy partnership academies in public schools for grades 9-12. SB1X1 requires that these funds be redirected from the Energy Commission's Renewable Resource Trust Fund to the extent the funds are available upon appropriation by the Legislature.

The partnership academies will focus on preparing students for careers in energy or water conservation, renewable energy, pollution reduction, or similar technologies. The Energy Commission will develop guidelines to ensure academy programs

receiving grant funding from the SPI align with current energy policies and priorities and provide skills and education linked to the current needs of the clean energy industries. SB1X1 requires the SPI to consult with the Energy Commission in reviewing applications for funding of Clean Energy Partnership Academy grants and in reviewing ongoing Clean Energy Partnership Academy programs. As part of its obligations under SB1X1, the Energy Commission will consult with the SPI on 1) the release of grant solicitations for prospective academies, 2) program technical assistance and review of partnership academies, and 3) identifying and analyzing gaps in the program and preparing an annual report to the legislature. In addition, the Energy Commission will update the guidelines annually as needed to address changes in the program or the law.

Partnership academies were established by the California Department of Education in the 1980s. An academy is a multi-year program for high school students structured as a school-within-a-school. Partnership academies combine career technical education with academic studies to prepare students for graduation and future employment or schooling. The academies serve primarily at-risk pupils. The criteria used for student eligibility include irregular attendance, past record of underachievement, low motivation or disinterest in the regular academic program, and economical disadvantages. Each curriculum focuses on a career theme, such as health, energy, or information technology, and is coordinated with related academic classes. The career technical focus for an academy is determined by an analysis of the local labor market and fields that have companies willing to support the program. According to the SPI, there are 475 academies currently operating in the state preparing students for a wide variety of careers.

SB 1X1 requires the Energy Commission, in consultation with the SPI, to develop these guidelines no later than 60 days after the effective date of the bill, and before the SPI issues a request for grant applications.

In adopting these guidelines, SB 1X1 expressly exempts the Energy Commission from the formal rulemaking requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, Government Code sections 11340 et seq.

III. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE

The Commission's Efficiency Committee (consisting of Presiding Member Commissioner Karen Douglas), or a successor committee with similar powers and duties appointed pursuant to Public Resources Code section 25211 ("the Committee"), shall preside over this proceeding. The Committee may hold workshops and hearings as it deems appropriate and shall take all actions necessary and appropriate to comply with all applicable legal requirements of the Public

Resources Code.

In conducting this proceeding the Committee and Energy Commission staff shall collaborate with the SPI through the Department of Education.

Based on the information received during the proceeding, the Committee will develop Clean Energy Partnership Academy guidelines for consideration and adoption by the Energy Commission. Public notice of not less than 30 calendar days shall be required before the initial adoption of Clean Energy Partnership Academy guidelines consistent with the adoption of Energy Commission guidelines under Public Resources Code sections 25747 and 25784. Subsequent substantive changes to the Clean Energy Partnership Academy guidelines may be adopted by the Energy Commission with public notice of no less than 10 calendar days.

IV. SCOPE OF THE PROCEEDING

This proceeding will address the adoption of Clean Energy Partnership Academy guidelines. The guidelines will apply to school districts in the state that meet requirements as set out in SB1X1, as they apply to receive grants to implement or maintain a partnership academy that focuses on employment in clean technology businesses and renewable energy businesses, and provides skilled workforces for the products and services for energy or water conservation, or both, renewable energy, pollution reduction, or other technologies.

The Energy Commission has scheduled the first staff workshop on guideline development under this proceeding for August 2, 2011, to take place at the Commission, 1516 9th St., Sacramento, California, 95814. The Committee may reschedule the date of this workshop if necessary to accommodate the development of the guidelines in consultation with the SPI. Additional workshops or hearing may be held if deemed necessary by the Committee.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Energy Commission encourages full and free public participation. Any person present at any hearing or workshop shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to make oral comments on the subject matter of the proceeding. Petitions to intervene are not necessary. The Committee shall issue one or more notices indicating the date of any hearings or workshops in the proceeding. Any person may file written comments on the subject of this proceeding as specified in a Committee notice. All written comments must be received at the following address by the date specified in the Committee notice:

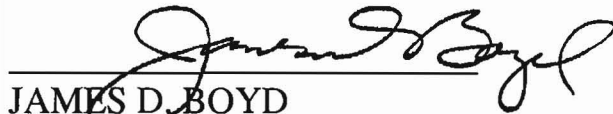
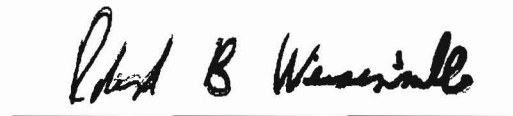

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California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, California 95814-5512

The Executive Director shall ensure that this order and every order and notice issued by the Committee, including notices of the time and place for all hearings and workshops, are distributed to all interested persons. The Executive Director shall also ensure that drafts of proposed guidelines are made available to interested persons and the Public Adviser sufficiently in advance of consideration or adoption by the Energy Commission to allow timely public participation.

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser is available to help any person who wants to participate in this proceeding. Please call (916) 654-4489 or toll-free in California at (800) 822-6228, or e-mail pao@energy.state.ca.us.

Date: June 29, 2011

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