



May 15, 2014

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi  
Chair, Assembly Subcommittee No. 2 on Education  
State Capitol, Room 4117  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The 2014-15 May Revision State Budget Proposal – Proposition 39 Item

Dear Assembly Member Muratsuchi:

On behalf of the School Energy Coalition (SEC), an organization made up of K-12 schools, community colleges, school construction and energy consultants focused on energy efficiency and renewable generation projects for California's students, I am writing to express strong support for the continued focus on K-14 school facilities from the California Clean Energy Jobs Act Fund (CEJA Fund) created by state voters per Proposition 39 in the 2014-15 State Budget proposal. We are disappointed to see that despite the increased Corporation Tax Revenue scored in the May Revision that the Governor's proposal cuts Proposition 39 funding by \$9 million for K-12 and \$1.5 million to the portion for Community Colleges.

We urge the Legislature to reject this proposal and apply one-time funds identified to the CEJA Fund to raise the funding for school energy efficiency projects back to the 2013-14 levels.

Schools have been struggling under consecutive years of budget cuts to maintain their academic programs, keep teachers, and provide students with safe and clean places to learn. With the funding provided for school energy efficient installations under Proposition 39, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are working to leverage these dollars with other school facility and energy funding to achieve more utility savings. These general fund savings may be applied to other school priorities or to maintaining these investments, thus making taxpayer dollars go further. Another state benefit is that these school projects will assist in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and, therefore, help slow the advancement of climate change.

It is exciting to see schools now moving forward to obtain approval of their energy expenditure plans from the California Energy Commission (CEC). However, schools remain concerned that the promised funding will be there to make these important projects become a reality in communities throughout the State. The CEJA Fund guidelines were approved on December 19, 2013 and a handbook was issued on January 31, 2014, to help schools as they move forward in planning and project implementation over the next few months and over the five years of the program. SEC is working with schools to inform and assist them in this process.

SEC appreciates the continued focus of the CEJA Fund on schools and, as LEAs continue to plan and work on their energy projects, we look forward to continuing our discussions with you and the Administration regarding this process.

Sincerely,

Anna Ferrera  
Executive Director

cc: Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 2  
Misty Feusahrens, Assembly Budget Committee  
Jennifer Kuhn, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Nick Schweizer, Department of Finance