



April 10, 2017

Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(via electronic mail)

Dear Ms. Townsend and Board Members:

We are writing to share a few concerns regarding the draft guidelines for the Draft Drinking Water for Schools Grant Program Funding Guidelines. We are concerned that the guidelines may unnecessarily exclude or disadvantage charter schools from participation in the program and offer suggestions on how to modify the guidelines to accommodate them.

### **Eligible Entities**

The draft (page 2) defines “eligible entities” as Local Education Agencies serving Kindergarten or any of grades 1-12” along with preschools and child care facilities “located on public school property.” Later (page 8) the draft defines Local Educational Entities as “a public board of education or other public authority.” We are concerned that these terms are vague and not otherwise clearly defined in law. We suggest that the words “charter school” be inserted in both locations and that the phrase “located on public school property” be changed to “located in a facility that houses a public school.”

### **Prioritization and Impaired Access**

Subsection “C” on page 4 speaks to a public disclosure “such as the School Accountability Report Card (SARC) and Subsection “B” on page 6 refers to the Facility Inspection Tool and SARC. While school districts are required by law to use this inspection tool and the standard SARC format that school districts must use include information from this tool, charter schools are not generally required to use this tool and are not required to follow the SARC format or content that is required of school districts. This is particularly problematic given that eligibility will hinge on having included a “poor” or “fair” finding in a “previous year,” effectively precluding charter schools that do not use the inspection tool from participation.

We suggest modifying the guidelines to allow charter schools to participate if their governing board has determined that access to clean and safe drinking water is impaired in their facility. We also suggest a similar change to the definition of “good repair” at the bottom of page 7.

Similarly, charter schools are not subject to Education Code section 38086. We suggest changing the word “Applicants” in the last sentence of the first full paragraph on page 7 to “School districts” (excluding charter schools) to clarify this matter by excluding charter schools from this requirement.

I would be happy to discuss these matters and can be reached via phone (538-6612 extension 205) or electronic mail ([epremack@chartercenter.org](mailto:epremack@chartercenter.org)).

Sincerely,



Eric Premack  
Executive Director