



(8/19/14) Board Meeting
DROPS
Deadline: 8/13/14 by 12:00 noon



August 13, 2014

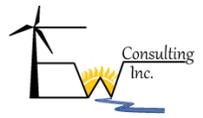
Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools (DROPS) Draft Guideline comments.

Dear Ms. Townsend,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DROPS Program draft guidelines. EW Consulting, Inc. would like to provide the following comments and suggestions for your consideration:

- 1) Energy savings is mentioned in the "Purpose" section and "Reduce energy consumption" is listed as a goal under "Program Preferences" on page 6. The energy savings goal does not appear to be reflected anywhere in the Proposal Evaluation Criteria in Appendix C. Most of the other program preferences are included in the multiple benefits category so perhaps it can be included there.
- 2) The current guidelines base the maximum grant amount on school size and student enrollment. This method could limit the opportunity to maximize the Program's impact. Some larger school districts may have properties with little available open space for projects, while smaller school districts with lower enrollment may have more open space available. For example, under the current guidelines a smaller school district with space identified for a regional stormwater project in an Enhanced Watershed Management Plan or Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan would be eligible for less funding than a large district with a much smaller project. We recommend that you revise the guidelines to base funding eligibility on project size and benefits, rather than district size.
- 3) Although required in the enabling funding legislation, the twenty-year requirement for maintaining and operating any funded improvements could deter potential applicants who are concerned about limiting their ability to move forward with future building projects. It would be helpful if some flexibility could be included to allow for future modifications to the project and its footprint as long as the original project objectives are still met after any modifications.



4) We recommend a more detailed Technical Merit section in the Proposal Evaluation Criteria with a breakdown of assigned points for each major category within. Given its importance, additional points should be considered for the Technical Merit category.

5) Given the number of program goals reflected in the multiple benefits category, consider giving additional points to this section of the Program Evaluation Criteria.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Drayse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Drayse
Principal, EW Consulting, Inc.
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