



CCSESA

California County Superintendents Educational Services Association

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February 14, 2017

Patricia Leary
Senior Engineer, Division of Financial Assistance
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100
Patricia.Leary@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: State Water Board "Drinking Water for Schools Grant Program"

Dear Ms. Leary,

We understand that the California State Water Board is currently considering approval of guidelines for the **Drinking Water for Schools Grant Program** established in the 2016 state budget trailer bill SB 828. The California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) writes to support the Board's expedited effort to publish program guidelines and a corresponding application process in early 2017 so that the schools, districts and students we represent may immediately begin to benefit from the safe drinking water access this program prioritizes.

As you know, the *Drinking Water for Schools Grant Program* is modeled after the successful Agua4All program implemented by the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) and funded by The California Endowment and others. The Agua4All program has in the past couple years installed or provided technical assistance on 129 water access points in 41 schools across 10 districts and has produced a list of more than 83 schools in 34 districts that wish to be in the pipeline for the next round of installations.

We are aware that many of the small Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) are disproportionately impacted by a lack of access to safe water. We support the position of many water advocates that the Board must look closely at how best to balance these needs and guarantee fair access for DACs to these funds.

Thank you for your expedited efforts, and we look forward to working with the Board, RCAC and others to support and publicize this program once the guidelines and an application process are established.

Sincerely,

Peter Birdsall
Executive Director, CCSESA

CC: RCAC