

SB1X1 CLEAN ENERGY PARTNERSHIP ACADEMIES

June 17, 2011

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Time needed: 10 minutes

Action Requested of Efficiency Policy Committee: Approval for an Order Instituting Rulemaking for the development of guidelines for the clean energy partnership academies as mandated by SB X1 1 (Steinberg, Chapter 2, Statutes of 2011).

Business Meeting Date: June 29, 2011

Background: SB X1 1 requires the Energy Commission to work with the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to develop guidelines for clean energy partnership academies that will direct the academies and ensure they are in line with energy policies, technologies and mandates. The academies are administered by the Department of Education (CDE), under the direction of the SPI. The Energy Commission will also assist CDE with releasing a Request for Applications for prospective academies, provide program technical assistance and review for the partnership academies, assist CDE in identifying and analyzing gaps in the program and preparing an annual report to the legislature, and update the guidelines annually. The Energy Commission will also assist CDE in holding conferences for academy instructors.

SB X1 1 originally required the Energy Commission to fund clean energy partnership academies for grades 10-12 with \$8 million from the Renewable Resources Trust Fund. However, budget revisions call for the funding to be reduced to \$3.2 million and the source to be the General Fund.

Justification for Action Requested: The Energy Commission is authorized by SB X1 1 to develop guidelines for the clean energy partnership academies instead of regulations under rulemaking procedures of Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code. However, the Energy Commission will follow its customary process for guideline development to maintain transparency, including holding public workshops and accepting and responding to public comments.

Pros and Cons:

Pros: The Energy Commission previously provided \$12 million in funding for the partnership academies through a one-time appropriation from the Public Interest Energy Research program under AB 519 (Budget Committee) Chapter 757, Statutes of 2008. That bill did not require any further responsibilities or collaboration from the Energy

Commission. SB X1 1, however, presents a unique opportunity for the state to leverage its resources to create an unprecedented partnership of the Energy Commission and the Department of Education. This partnership will develop a technical education program leading to well-paying career options for California's youth while facilitating the state's ability to meet its environmental and clean energy mandates and build a clean energy economy.

Cons: The Energy Commission submitted a budget change proposal to request 4 staff positions to implement the expansion of the program under SB X1 1. The positions requested were: 1 staff services manager, 2 associate governmental program analysts, and 1 staff legal counsel. The Department of Finance did not approve the request. Therefore, the tasks associated with this bill must be completed by current staff, who may be redirected from other important programs to perform this work.

What Happens Next:

1. Guideline Development – Collaborate with CDE on guideline development process. Hold public workshop to solicit input on the scope of the guidelines. Convene ad hoc working group to advise on guideline development. Consult with legal staff to develop and implement guidelines consistent with California law. Develop draft guidelines. Conduct public workshop to review draft guidelines. Prepare final draft guidelines and provide for final public comment period followed by Energy Commission adoption. Attached is the draft schedule for this task and a draft table of contents.
2. Request for Applications (RFA) – Advise CDE to develop the request for applications for the 2012-13 year and to conduct workshops to support prospective programs.
3. RFA Review and Notification – Staff will work with CDE to review applications and select programs based on the strength of their proposals and consistency with the guidelines and then notify the accepted applicants.
4. Program Collaboration and Consultation – Staff will work with CDE and the selected academies in developing implementation plans for their programs. Hold webinars with CDE and workshops to ensure potential academies are well-informed of the guidelines and have sufficient support to develop programs that adhere to the guidelines. Work with the SPI to identify resources, including curricula and equipment, from the Clean Energy Workforce Training Program and the AB 118 program that can benefit the academies.
5. Program Technical Support – Provide ongoing technical support for CDE as the RFAs are initially developed, as the programs are launched, and as the programs continue.
6. Guidelines Revision, Gap Identification, Analysis and Recommendations for Implementation Plans– Work with CDE, the academies, and industry to identify and

analyze gaps in the programs and curricula and provide recommendations for remedies. Revise guidelines accordingly to stay current with the evolving needs of the clean energy industry.

7. Report Preparation – Assist CDE in collecting the information and write the annual report due to the Legislature.
8. Annual Conference – Assist CDE in planning and holding an annual conference for the partnership academies. Staff will prepare presentations and hold workshops for the conference.