

August 13, 2014

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
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Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools (DROPS)
Written comments to proposed Guidelines

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The DROPS grant provides an excellent opportunity to achieve significant reduction in stormwater pollution in locations dedicated to learning and understanding. In conjunction with the project development, students and the community will be engaged in actions that provide a foundation for meaningful and valuable behavior change.

My comments to the proposed guidelines: why is only 10% being allowed for education and outreach?

I understand the need to construct long-term systems that reduce stormwater pollution, however, educating a cadres of young students about the importance of water management will potentially last a lifetime.

As an example, for a \$999,999.00 grant being spent during the four years, only \$25,000 a year is being allocated to educate a district of potentially 10,000 students. Or broken down further, an allocation of \$2.50 per student per year.

In the scoring criteria, education and community involvement represents the highest point criteria. I recommend you consider increasing the education and outreach component to 20%. This allows grantees an opportunity to utilize funds in ways that highlight what they do best – educate.

For clarification, can an applicant use 100% of their matching funds on education and apply the full 10% of the grant funding on education and outreach?

Thanks for taking my comments.

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