

MEMORANDUM

Staff Summary No. 4

Date: October 9, 2013

To: Members of the California School Finance Authority

From: Katrina M. Johantgen, Executive Director

Subject: Appeal by the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools Regarding the Charter School Facility Grant Program

Background: On August 19, 2013, all California charter schools were notified via-email of the deadline for application submission for the 2013-14 funding round under the State Charter School Facility Grant Program (Program). Section 10170.5(a) of the Program regulations sets forth an application deadline of September 9, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

The California School Finance Authority (CSFA) received 8 late applications for the 2013-14 funding round of the Program. All late applicants were notified that their applications were late and that late applications would not be deemed eligible for Program funding.

On or about September 11, 2013, an Inyo County representative contacted CSFA staff requesting that we accept their late applications (at this point they had yet to send in their applications). We referred the representative to the adopted program regulations and stated that late applications would not be accepted.

On Friday, September 13, 2013, CSFA received two late applications from the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools on behalf of Youth Build Charter School of California and Youth Build Charter School of California-Central, as well as a formal appeal letter on behalf of the schools. The appeal submitted by the Superintendent notes that the rejection of the applications will cause a “devastating financial impact on two charter schools...” totaling an annual deficit of \$880,000 (See attached letter). A second appeal letter was received on September 26, 2013 (See attached letter).

Recommendation: Staff is recommending that the board deny the appeal by the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools. Program regulations clearly state the submission deadline. There were several schools that missed the submission deadline and those schools were deemed ineligible for program consideration. Whereas we are empathetic to the financial ramifications this denial may have on the schools, we cannot violate Program regulations or make exemptions for some schools. Furthermore, the Authority received over 320 applications by the September 9th deadline.