

Sample County Board of Education Resolution in Support of Accelerating the Distribution of Proposition 51 School Facilities Funds

WHEREAS, Article IX Section 5 of the California Constitution finds public education is a State responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Article 1 Section 28 of the California Constitution states that public schools shall be safe, secure and peaceful; and

WHEREAS, county offices of education are a critical part of the education infrastructure, serving a diverse population of students that typically require specialized facilities, smaller classes, and support services; and

WHEREAS, the voters of the State of California have, since 1982, consistently approved statewide school construction and modernization bond measures to provide resources through programs contained in the Lease-Purchase Program and School Facility Program, Title 1, Division 1, Part 10, Chapters 12 and 12.5 of the Education Code; and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2016, voters of California passed Proposition 51 that authorized the State of California to sell \$9 billion worth of statewide school facilities bonds; and

WHEREAS, county offices of education do not have the authority to issue local bonds and often lack local resources for facilities projects; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has played a critical role in helping county offices of education meet their facilities needs, providing county offices of education with over \$1 billion in funds since 1998 under Division 1, Part 10, Chapter 12.5 of the Education Code; and

WHEREAS, by December 5, 2017, there was a more than \$3.2 billion backlog in project applications filed by school districts and county offices of education seeking state bond funds; and

(Optional) WHEREAS, the _____ County Office of Education has \$_____ in facilities needs which may be partially funded by State bonds; and

(Optional) WHEREAS, the _____ County Office of Education has submitted applications for at least \$_____ in state grant funds; and

(Optional) WHEREAS, school districts in _____ County have submitted applications worth at least \$_____ in state grant funds; and

WHEREAS, it has been more than one year since voters approved \$7 billion for K-12 state school bonds in Proposition 51, and only approximately \$600 million of K-12 Proposition 51 funds will be sold in 2017-18; and

WHEREAS, only \$640 million in school bonds funds are proposed to be sold in FY 2018-19; and

WHEREAS, this current pace of school bond sales does not meet the \$3.2 billion backlog of applications submitted by school districts and county offices of education across the state; and

WHEREAS, an average of more than 90% of previous statewide school bond funds were committed within four (4) years of the measure's passage; and

WHEREAS, at the current pace of state school bond sales, it will be almost a decade before 90% of Proposition 51 K-12 funds will be committed; and

WHEREAS, school districts and county offices of education face rising construction cost inflation the longer the state delays bond sales to fund the submitted applications backlog, resulting in fewer students having access to new and renovated classrooms from Proposition 51; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 98 and the new Local Control Funding Formula are intended to improve educational achievement for all students but do not provide dedicated facilities funding; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that quality school facilities have a positive impact on student academic performance, attendance and teacher job satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition for Adequate School Housing proposes, and the County School Facilities Consortium supports, \$3.0 billion in Proposition 51 bond sales in FY 2018-19 to fund most of the \$3.2 billion application backlog as of December 2017, so that school districts and county offices of education receive the resources voters promised to adequately serve students, families and their communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ County Board of Education calls on the State of California to process and apportion \$3.0 billion in School Facility Program application backlog by December 31, 2018, and to sell \$3.0 billion in Proposition 51 state school bonds during 2018-19 to honor the will of California voters.

Adopted by the Governing Board of the (insert name of county board of education) on (insert month) (date), 2018.

Signature (Governing Board Secretary)

Date

Please forward a copy of the signed resolution to the County School Facilities Consortium and Coalition for Adequate School Housing by emailing it to jcontreras@m-w-h.com.