# ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN CALIFORNIA'S SCHOOLS



An Energy Service Provider Perspective February 19, 2013

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# Resource Solutions Group (RSG)

- 10+ years implementing California public school efficiency programs
  - SCSA support, IOU third party implementer, direct to districts
- California Energy Efficiency Industry Council (Efficiency Council)
  - Founding/Sustaining Member, Board Chair- over 75 members
- School Energy Efficiency (SEE) Program
  - Geographic coverage: 20 counties in PG&E service territory
  - Comprehensive approach: Lighting, HVAC, Insulation, Computer Power Management, Water Heating, Pool Measures, Refrigeration/Motors, Compressed Air and more
  - Hands-on assistance to districts from screening through field verification
- Program summary: 2006- 2012
  - 200+ public school district upgrades
  - Savings: 21M kWh; 2,554 kW; 1.9M therms
  - \$3.6M rebates paid leveraging \$12.3M customer investment



# **SEE Program Services**

Screen for need and savings potentialprovide on-going support

Conduct post inspections and process incentive payment

Provide application and paperwork support

Engineering and technical support:

pre/post inspections, calculations for custom measures Conduct
engineering
analysis,
assessments/audits

Work with districts to analyze opportunities, identify funding, secure approval

Project management support:

bid package development, measure specifications, selection criteria, vendor lists



## **Barriers to Energy Efficiency in Schools**

- Time limitations school calendar, staff time constraints
- Lack technical expertise to prioritize, select, manage upgrades
- Constrained budgets -competing funding priorities
- Limited resources for administration, applications
- Lengthy approval and contracting procedures
- Challenging for districts to distinguish among the many organizations offering services
- Project delays common due to funding, contractor schedule, school calendar, product availability



#### What works!

- Find and support internal champions
- Streamline and simplify process
- Easy access to financing
- Clear application process
- Long-term commitment- keep coming back
- Provide training and back-up when needed to keep things moving
- Hands-on project support and technical assistance
- Document savings and successes
- Recognition



## SEE Program Model - challenges of approach

- Budget/regulatory framework creates silos: renewable energy, retro-commissioning
- Cost-effectiveness framework limits comprehensive offerings
- Budget limitations impact ability to scale and disrupt momentum when cut off



### SEE Program Model - benefits of approach

- Trusted advisors: program team becomes advocate for all types of energy upgrades, particularly important for smaller districts and those needing extensive support
- One-Stop-Shop: Clarity across diverse opportunities
- Repeated efforts over years increases savings over time
- Long-term commitment
  - Allows schools to achieve comprehensive savings within budget/schedule
  - Fresno Unified School District:
    - 37 projects over 6 years
    - 4.6M kWh, 820 kW, and 37,684 therm savings
  - Kern High School District:
    - 20 projects over 5 years
    - 366,437 kWh, 33 kW, 3,140 therm savings





# **CASE STUDY EXAMPLES**



#### Fresno USD



- Fourth-largest district in California
  - 73,000 students
  - 8 high schools, 17 middle schools, 65 elementary schools, 9 alternative/special ed schools
- <u>Upgrades</u>: large, district-wide lighting retrofits, tankless water heaters, and pool covers
  - Program incentives: \$651,303
  - Energy Savings: 4,760,210 kWh; 792.95 kW; 37,684 Therms
- Funding: Measure Q (bonds), OBF, and incentives
- Of Note: Rebates are reinvested in future EE projects; serve as a revolving pool of funds. District is extremely committed to pursuing all cost effective options.



#### Oakdale USD



- District serves
  - 5,200 students, 3 high schools, I jr. high, 4 elementary schools
- Upgrades: Pool pump VFD, lighting retrofits
  - Program incentives: \$34,168
  - Energy Savings: 240,732 kWh
- Funding: Maintenance budget and incentives, will consider CEC loan and/or OBF in the future
- Of Note: District pursued behavioral savings before moving to more efficient measure installation. Replacing HVAC units using upstream manufacturer rebates and doing the labor in-house



#### Rosedale Union



- Rosedale Union School District (Bakersfield, Kern County)
  - Rosedale Union is a K-8 district serving 5,300 students in 2 middle schools and 7 elementary schools
- <u>Upgrades</u>: Installed by local contractor, lighting in multiple schools, HVAC tune-up, duct cleaning programs
  - Program incentives: \$11,596
  - Energy Savings: 34,794 kWh
- Funding: Program incentive and deferred maintenance budget
- Of Note: Priority order of funding: deferred maintenance →
   Mello-Roos funds → operations budget → general fund

