

GENERAL WAIVER COVER SHEET
CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MAY 2003 AGENDA
Item No. WC-1

TITLE: Request by North Cow Creek Elementary School District (NCCESD) to waive Title 5 Section 3945, to withdraw from Shasta County Cooperative (SCC) for the purposes of the Consolidated Application and Funding.	ACTION _____ INFORMATION _____ PUBLIC HEARING _____ X CONSENT
CDSIS: 24-1-2003	

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends:

Approval (If approved, *Education Code* Section 33051(c) will apply, and the district will not have to reapply annually if the information contained on the request remains the same.)

Summary of Previous SBE Discussion and Action:

The State Board of Education (SBE) has approved similar waivers in the past, however no waiver requests have been received recently. The SBE Waiver Policy District Participation in Cooperatives (adopted 4/13/90) evaluating guidelines along with any additional documentation are used in reviewing these waivers.

Summary of Key Issue(s):

This is a waiver of Title V Regulation, Section 3945, which states: “(a) School districts with less than \$75,000 total funding available from all Consolidated Application (ConApp) sources must enter into a cooperative program.....”

NCCESD indicates that they are working in a collaborative fashion with several other districts in Shasta County’s East Side, collectively known as the Eastside Consortium. NCCESD also indicates that working within the collaborative framework with other districts in the Eastside Consortium will facilitate the preparation of the ConApp. NCCESD plans to contract a retired principal from one of the Eastside Consortium districts to prepare the ConApp for all the districts in the consortium. This contracted staff-member will provide direct input and guidance to the members of the consortium, thus involving the consortium districts more directly with the ConApp process. Also, NCCESD asserts that by pooling funds (that would have been paid to the cooperative) with other districts in the Consortium, NCCESD, in collaboration with other schools of Shasta County’s Eastside Consortium, can develop essential learning programs and standards for the pupils in the Eastside Consortium, while developing assessments to monitor these programs. Members of the consortium have developed writing and mathematics programs for K-9 grade spans, and NCCESD plans to develop similar programs. The money which NCCESD saves by not paying the SCC will be allocated towards putting these programs, standards and assessments in place, thereby better serving the needs of their students.

NCCESD has several positive factors in their favor:

- NCCESD is currently in compliance within Coordinated Compliance Review standards.
- NCCESD's API scores have been consistently above statewide target-level scores for the last three years. NCCESD API scores have averaged 836.5 for the years 1999-2002, which exceeds the Statewide Performance Target of 800, for 1999-2002.
- NCCESD has submitted their 2002-2003 ConApp, Part I and Part II, in a timely manner and were not considered delinquent in their submission of said application.
- NCCESD has notified both the SCC and the Shasta County Office of Education (SCOE) of their intentions to submit a waiver request to CDE in order to withdraw from the SCC.
- NCCESD currently has plans in place to implement programs and curriculum to better serve the needs of their students, and the money they save in cooperative fees will help them to achieve implementation of these improvement plans.

The CDE contacted the SCOE about this waiver request to withdraw from the Shasta County Co-op and has received a letter of support from the Shasta County Office of Education.

It is the position of CDE to support such a request. This support is on the basis that NCCESD would gain more flexibility in completing the ConApp, and they would be saving approximately \$6,000 annually, which could be utilized by the district in any way the district sees fit.

Bargaining unit(s) consulted on:

Position of bargaining unit (choose only one):

Neutral Support Oppose

Name of bargaining unit representative: Charlotte Fischer, President CTA Local

Public hearing identified by (choose one or more):

posting in a newspaper posting at each school other

(specify) _____

Public hearing held on: January 15, 2003

Local board approval date: January 15, 2003

Advisory committee(s) consulted:

Objections raised (choose one): None Objections are attached on separate sheet

Date consulted: January 15, 2003

Effective dates of request: July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2005

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate): The total funds to NCCESD for 2002-2003 were \$69,645. This falls shy of the \$75,000 mark, which requires a district to belong to a cooperative. Monies paid to the SCC in 2001-2002 were \$5,921. It is not foreseeable that there would be any overall statewide fiscal impact, with regards to NCCESD withdrawing from the SCC.

Background Information: Documentation is attached to this summary.