

EL CAMINO REAL CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

A California Distinguished School

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JON WASSER
Board Chair

DAVE FEHTE
Executive Director

March 16, 2016

Via Federal Express overnight

José Cole-Gutiérrez, Director
Charter Schools Division
Los Angeles Unified School District
333 S. Beaudry Ave., 20th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: El Camino Real Charter High School Request for Material Revision

Dear Mr. Cole-Gutiérrez:

On behalf of El Camino Real Alliance (“ECRA”), I am writing to request a material revision of El Camino Real Charter High School’s (“ECRCHS” or the “Charter School”) charter petition. This letter, and the enclosed documents, was prepared consistent with the Los Angeles Unified School District (“LAUSD” or the “District”) Charter Schools Division’s (“CSD”) Administrative Procedures for Charter School Authorizing (revised 9/10/13) and Request for Material Revision Checklist (revised as of the same date).

RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ECRCHS is seeking a material revision of its charter in order to make important changes to its enrollment capacity. This material revision request was invited by CSD in an email message from Aida Tatioosian, Specialist to ECRA Board Chair Jon Wasser dated October 28, 2015. ECRA operates ECRCHS.

There is some confusion between CSD and ECRA regarding the approved enrollment of ECRCHS. CSD maintains that the approved enrollment of the Charter School is 3,600 students. ECRA maintains that the approved enrollment of ECRCHS is 3,800 students: 3,600 enrolled on the main ECRCHS campus, and an additional 200 enrolled in the Alternative Education Program and Independent Study Program (formerly known as Miguel Leonis Continuation School).

Confusion was also exhibited among District Board members during the November 10, 2015 District Board meeting. Some Board members understood that when they voted to approve ECRCHS’s operation of an Alternative Education Program and Independent Study Program on the site of the former Miguel Leonis Continuing Education School, that action automatically increased ECRCHS’s total enrollment to 3,800, as 200 students would be added to the Charter School’s population. Other Board members did not find the action to be clear in that way.

ECRA has already responded to a Notice to Cure on this topic. Following is a summary of the its evidence to demonstrate that ECRCHS was intended to be approved to enroll 3,800 students when the Alternative Education Program and Independent Studies Program were added to the Charter School’s operations in 2012:

- On May 22, 2012, the LAUSD Board took action to approve the following agenda item: “[r]ecommends the approval of the amendment to the charter of El Camino Real Charter High School to add an alternative educational and intervention program focused on meeting the specific academic needs of students who are behind in credits and who are at risk of not graduating.” (Emphasis added.)
- CSD staff knew that ECRCHS believed its enrollment was authorized to be 3,800 – this is evident in email messages and telephone calls exchanged between the parties.
- On at least two different occasions in 2012, ECRCHS submitted budgets to CSD finance staff showing an enrollment of 3,800 students.
- The Sole Occupant Agreement entered into by ECRCHS and the District includes a capacity of 3,600 students. The lease between LAUSD and ECRCHS for 5445 Manton Avenue (Alternative Education Program and Independent Studies Program) identifies a student population at that address of 125-200 students. The lease also makes clear that those 125-200 students are ECRCHS students.
- Education Code Section 47605(d)(2)(C) states: “...in no event shall [a charter school authorizer] take any action to impede the charter school from expanding enrollment to meet pupil demand.” (Emphasis added.)

Current Request

ECRA requests a material revision of the ECRCHS charter to allow for an enrollment capacity of 3,800 students. This enrollment capacity is consistent with the campus capacity determination made by [insert name] of the Los Angeles Unified School District’s [insert name of department].

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

ECRCHS’s weighted 3-Year Average Academic Performance Index (“API”) score was 823. The Charter School’s most recent statewide and similar schools API ranks were 9 and 7, respectively. With such excellent educational indication already in place, the Charter School aspires to offer more vocational opportunities to students, thus preparing all students for high school graduation and the working world. The Charter School provides a strong and proven educational program that serves the unique needs of all of its students, and desires to be able to offer that program to as many students as its campus allows.

IDENTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES

The ECRCHS charter renewal petition, unanimously approved by the District Board on November 10, 2015 will be revised as follows:

The number of students in the first year will be:	3,800
The enrollment capacity is: (Enrollment capacity is defined as the total number of students who may be enrolled in Charter School regardless of student residency.)	3,800

Target Enrollment Plan, page 22.

Enrollment Plan

General Education Program	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
9 th grade	870	870	870	870	870
10 th grade	910	910	910	910	910
11 th grade	890	890	890	890	890
12 th grade	930	930	930	930	930
Total	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600
Alternative Education* and Independent Study	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
9 th grade	10	10	10	10	10
10 th grade	30	30	30	30	30
11 th grade	60	60	60	60	60
12 th grade	100	100	100	100	100
Total	200	200	200	200	200
Grand Total	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800

*Enrollment in the Alternative Education program fluctuates throughout the school year; historically, enrollment has fluctuated between 80 and 200 students. The enrollment figures in this chart represent the total number of students who may be enrolled in the program at any given time during the school year. Existing ECRCHS students are referred to the Alternative Education program from the general education program, so this fluctuation would not impact overall enrollment at ECRCHS.

CONCLUSION

ECRCHS is eager to work with the District to address any questions or concerns regarding its charter petition material revision request. Please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Dave Fehte
Executive Director, ECRA