

STATE CAPITOL
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March 6, 2026

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair
Assembly Committee on Budget
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable David Tangipa, Vice Chair
Assembly Committee on Budget
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable David Alvarez, Chair
Assembly Committee on Budget
Subcommittee No. 3
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: FY 2026-27 Budget Request for the Reconstruction of Walt Tyler Elementary School

Dear Chair Gabriel, Vice Chair Tangipa, and Chair Alvarez,

We respectfully request \$3 million in one-time Proposition 2 bond funding to support the reconstruction of Walt Tyler Elementary School in Grizzly Flats, a rural school community that continues to recover from the devastating impacts of the 2021 Caldor Fire.

The Caldor Fire destroyed the school facilities that served the Grizzly Flats community, leaving the district without the infrastructure necessary to provide local educational services for its students. Walt Tyler Elementary was a small but essential campus consisting of classrooms, restrooms, administrative offices, a kitchen, playground facilities, and outdoor recreational space. Following the fire, the Pioneer Union School District began the process of rebuilding the school with updated designs. Now, children in Grizzly Flats are bused to Pioneer School in Somerset, a commute that can take up to two hours each way.

Despite significant progress and extensive efforts to secure funding from multiple sources, the district still faces a substantial funding gap. Insurance proceeds, FEMA funding, support from the Office of Public School Construction, contributions from the El Dorado Community Foundation, and district funds have collectively provided a majority of the resources necessary to rebuild. However, the project remains approximately

\$2.56 million short of the total construction cost, and the district is requesting \$3 million in state funding to close the gap and ensure completion of the project.

The district has already taken substantial steps toward rebuilding. However, the lack of an available source of the remaining funds threatens the project timeline and could jeopardize existing state and federal funding support if the district cannot demonstrate substantial construction progress within required timelines.

This project is particularly critical for the Grizzly Flats community. The community has worked diligently for nearly five years to restore this essential public institution. Local leaders have exhausted available funding options and assembled multiple funding sources to move the project forward. State support at this stage will ensure that the rebuilding effort can be completed and that students and families in this rural community can once again rely on a local school.

Therefore, we respectfully request \$3 million in one-time Proposition 2 Bond funding in the FY 2026–27 budget to assist with the reconstruction of Walt Tyler Elementary School in Grizzly Flats.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you require additional information or would like to discuss this proposal further, please contact Andrew Nickens in my office at (916) 319-2011.

Sincerely,



HEATHER HADWICK
Assemblymember, District 1



MARIE ALVARADO-GIL
Senator, District 4



JOHN HARABEDIAN
Assemblymember, District 41

Cc:

Erin Gabel, Assembly Budget Sub Committee No. 3

Joe Shinstock, Assembly Republican Caucus Office of Policy and Budget

Tobias Wolken, Assembly Republican Caucus Office of Policy and Budget