

California Department of Education  
WAIVER SUBMISSION - General

CD Code: 5472140

Waiver Number: 33-1-2017

Active Year: 2017

Date In: 1/31/2017 4:23:38 PM

Local Education Agency: Stone Corral Elementary  
Address: 15590 Avenue 383  
Visalia, CA 93292

Start: 7/1/2016

End: 7/1/2018

Waiver Renewal: N

Previous Waiver Number:      Previous SBE Approval Date:

Waiver Topic: Charter School Program  
Ed Code Title: Geographic Limitations - Non-classroom Based  
Ed Code Section: Portions of *EC* 47605(a)(1) and 47605.1  
Ed Code Authority: 33050

Ed Code or *CCR* to Waive: Portions of California *Education Code* Sections 47605(a)(1), 47605(a)(5), and 47605.1(d) as follows:

*Education Code* section 47605:

(a) (1) Except as set forth in paragraph (2), a petition for the establishment of a charter school [within a school district] may be circulated by one or more persons seeking to establish the charter school. A petition for the establishment of a charter school shall identify a single charter school [that will operate within the geographic boundaries of that school district]. A charter school may propose to operate at multiple sites [within the school district] if each location is identified in the charter school petition.

(5) [A charter school that is unable to locate within the jurisdiction of the chartering school district may establish one site outside the boundaries of the school district, but within the county in which that school district is located, if the school district within the jurisdiction of which the charter school proposes to operate is notified in advance of the charter petition approval, the county superintendent of schools and the Superintendent are notified of the location of the charter school before it commences operations, and either of the following circumstances exists]:

*Education Code* Section 47605.1:

(d)[ Notwithstanding subdivision (a) or subdivision (a) of Section 47605, a charter school that is unable to locate within the geographic boundaries of the chartering school district may establish one site outside the boundaries of the school district, but within the county within which that school district is located, if the school district in which the charter school proposes to operate is notified in advance of the charter petition approval, the county superintendent of schools is notified of the location of the charter school before it commences operations, and either of the following circumstances exist]

Outcome Rationale: Crescent Valley Public Charter (Crescent Valley) has been authorized by Stone Corral Elementary School District since 2010 and recently received a five-year renewal term from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2022. Crescent Valley is a non-classroom based/independent study charter school program offering personalized learning education programs for grades K-12.

Crescent Valley is specifically designated as an Alternative School Accountability Model (ASAM) serving high-risk pupils and drop-outs. The State recognizes that our school's population has an extremely high turnover rate and can serve an entirely new group of students every 12 months.

Crescent Valley primarily serves 9th-12th grade students who are considered "highly at-risk". The term highly at-risk encompasses students who are pregnant, significantly credit deficient, have medical problems that prevent regular attendance in a comprehensive program, and are on probation for criminal offenses. At-risk youth typically come from single-parent homes, have a low socioeconomic status, and experience a high degree of transiency in their living situations. Despite these barriers to achievement, Crescent Valley continues to help these students succeed and graduate from high school.

Crescent Valley serves approximately 1,300 students annually with 80% of the population eligible for free and reduced-price meals (Socioeconomically Disadvantaged). The population includes 33% English Learner population and 7% SPED students. Many of Crescent Valley's students have previously dropped out of high school and enroll at Crescent Valley with an average of 50 credits deficient.

Crescent Valley has an English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) composed of parents, students and teachers formed to address the needs of EL students. The ELAC committee has provided professional development on teaching EL students in an independent study setting, created an EL study hall, implemented EL instructional rubrics, and helped guide the allocation of educational resources towards English Learners.

Crescent Valley students with special needs are served in accordance with their Individualized Education Programs ("IEPs,") including but not limited to special education and related services provided by a Specialized Academic Instructor, who provides one-on-one instruction, along with accommodations and modifications. Crescent Valley is part of the El Dorado County Charter SELPA.

Crescent Valley's students receive academic instruction from highly qualified (HQ) teachers in the core content areas of ELA, science, math and social studies. HQ teachers will also be provided to students in the areas of foreign language, art, and in Career Tech Education (CTE) courses.

At Crescent Valley each course is designed for the students and reviewed with the student by a supervising teacher in both the one-on-one and small group settings. Crescent Valley's approach to Personalized Learning includes ample student support through individual tutorials, small group pull-out sessions, small group tutorials, career technical education pathways and courses, labs, online classes and technology based learning opportunities and tutorials.

Crescent Valley also provides instruction to meet the educational needs of federally funded learn-and-work or learn-and-earn programs, including but not limited to the federal Workforce Investment Act pursuant to *Education Code* Section 47605.1(g). Crescent Valley's year-round

program emphasizes attainment of basic skill competencies, enhancing opportunities for academic and occupational training, and providing exposure to the job market and employment. Activities may include instruction leading to completion of secondary school, tutoring, internships, job shadowing, work experience, adult mentoring and comprehensive guidance and counseling. The program emphasizes services for out-of-school youth.

The Stone Corral Elementary School District has provided supervisory oversight and performance monitoring services for the Charter School, including monitoring school and student performance data, reviewing the school's audit reports, performing annual visits to the school facilities and resource centers, and considering charter amendment and renewal requests. The Stone Corral Elementary School District affirms that at all times Crescent Valley has operated its resource centers consistent with the advice and written guidance issued by the California Department of Education since 2002 (see Attachment).

On October 16, 2016, the 3rd District Court of Appeal ruled in AUHSD v. Shasta Secondary Home School that under *Education Code* section 47605(a), independent study charter schools may not have resource centers outside of the boundaries of the school district in which the charter school is authorized, but within the same county.

Currently, Crescent Valley has two (2) resource centers located within Tulare County that may be affected by the ruling. This waiver is necessary to protect the continued operation of Crescent Valley's existing resource centers where special education services, English Language Development, and intervention services are provided.

The ruling impacts approximately 1,300 students annually with 80% of the population Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, 33% English Learners and 7% SPED students. Also impacted are the 59 Crescent Valley employees.

Crescent Valley provides support including, but not limited to, Certificated Teachers, Special Education Teachers, Counselors, School Psychologist, Tutors, Student Relation Technicians, Student Relations Managers, Registrars, Student Retention Support Specialist, Principal, Instructional Specialist for Professional Development and Teacher Training, Program Specialist, Instructional Specialist Career Technical Education and an Instructional Specialist Online.

Since 2010, Crescent Valley has opened and operates three resource centers (one inside the boundaries of Stone Corral Elementary School District and two outside the boundaries of the District, but within the County). As a non-classroom based charter school, Crescent Valley is not eligible for Proposition 39 funding so each initial build out and start up is directly funded by the charter school. In addition, each resource center lease agreement does not have a termination "out clause" allowing the schools to release them of their long term financial liability. Furthermore, despite Crescent Valley's high free and reduced-price lunch ratio, it is not eligible for rental reimbursement under SB 740 as a nonclassroom based charter school.

Crescent Valley created these resource centers in alignment with the direction provided by the California Department of Education as provided in the letter dated November 14, 2002 from Janet Sterling, Director, School Fiscal Services Division, updating Charter School Administrators, County and District Superintendents and Chief Business Officials on recent charter legislation, including AB 1994 (attached).

The impact of the court's ruling in Shasta may result in the closing of these resource centers impacting 1,300 highly at-risk students who are now engaged in school and on a path towards graduation, employment of 59 school employees and the inability to meet the millions of dollars

in long-term leases and other financial obligations. The result may cause Crescent Valley to become insolvent and force it to file for bankruptcy. In addition to the impact on students being displaced, staff's loss of employment and school closure costs, local communities and the state of California will be affected by the loss of the societal benefit of each high school dropout recovered through Crescent Valley's educational program. On average each high school dropout costs the state of California \$209,200. <sup>1</sup> The dropout recovery of Crescent Valley's educational program has a potential savings of \$271,960,000 for the state California. For many of these students Crescent Valley's program is their last hope of obtaining a high school diploma.

<sup>1</sup>Source: Levin, et al.

This waiver is necessary to protect the continued operation of Crescent Valley's existing resource centers that provides the services and resources required under *Education Code* Section 51746, intervention support for all students, direct instruction opportunities for all students, and also provides a location for Federally mandated special education services to allow the provision of a free appropriate public education ("FAPE") to students who qualify under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act ("IDEA"), UCOP approved A-G coursework including hands on science labs with equipment and manipulatives and state mandated testing as required of charter schools pursuant to *Education Code* Section 47605(c).

Student Population: 1300

City Type: Rural

Public Hearing Date: 1/26/2017

Public Hearing Advertised: Notice was posted at the Stone Corral Elementary School District office and Crescent Valley Public Charter School main office, resource centers and website.

Local Board Approval Date: 1/26/2017

Community Council Reviewed By: Crescent Valley Public Charter School Board of Directors

Community Council Reviewed Date: 11/30/2016

Community Council Objection: N

Community Council Objection Explanation:

Audit Penalty YN: N

Categorical Program Monitoring: N

Submitted by: Mr. Christopher Kemper

Position: Superintendent/Principal

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- Bargaining unit(s) consulted on date(s) **Staff was consulted on 01/25/2017**
- Name of bargaining unit
- Representative First Name
- Representative Last Name

- Representative Title
- The position of the bargaining unit
- Neutral, Support, Oppose (Please specify why) Comments (if oppose)