

Citizens' Oversight Committee Report on Measure "E"

To request additional
information, e-mail HUSD at:
MeasureE@hemetusd.k12.ca.us
Or visit the HUSD web site:
www.hemetusd.k12.ca.us

Letter from Our Chairperson

The Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) is entering its fifth year of existence. The Committee continues to effectively monitor the use of the Measure E Hemet Unified School District General Obligation Bond proceeds to assure the community that they have been spent on approved designated projects, spent efficiently and according to State fiscal standards.

The COC was established subject to Proposition 39 (2000) Education Code Section 15728 et. Seq. and Assembly Bill 1908 (2000). The COC is formed under strict governmental requirements, including stipulating the number and representative makeup of the membership. The COC meetings are formally agendaized and publicly noticed. Agenda and minutes are posted on the District's website and provided to all local newspapers.

The law specifically requires members to represent a cross section of the community without financial ties to the District. The existing Committee members represent a diverse makeup of the community. Members cannot be employed or do business with the School District. It is also important to note that the COC members are not policy makers and do not have the authority to make decisions. The decision mak-

ing role is exclusively the Governing Board's responsibility. They are members representing tax payer organizations, parents, senior citizens and business leaders.

The law requires the COC to review all project expenditures and requires an annual report including an annual audit. The COC members take this responsibility seriously. As overseers of the public's tax dollars they assure that all monies have been spent efficiently on voter approved projects with cost savings measures in mind.

I can assure you that the COC members continue to carefully review the financial reports and examine the appropriate use of the funds quarterly. As required by law, all agendas, minutes and reports are subject to the public meeting act (Brown Act) and are posted on the District's website at www.hemetusd.k12.ca.us. As always, we encourage you to email questions and comments to us at MeasureE@hemetusd.k12.ca.us or contact Richard Beck, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services at (951) 791-2401.

We are nearing the end of the Measure E expenditures. The last projects, Tahquitz High School and Hamilton addition and modernization will be completed by the end of the

fiscal year. The COC will remain in effect until all expenditures are made.

The members have toured most projects funded under Measure E and have been impressed by the quality of construction and the efficient use of funds. We appreciate our chance to participate in the Hemet Unified School District's noble endeavor to provide quality schools for our youth today and leaders tomorrow.

We are looking for two new members to serve on the Committee. If interested, contact Mr. Beck.

Anna Marie Dalbey,
Chairperson

Anna Marie Dalbey, Chairperson

Measure E Tax Rate Drops

With the sale of the final series of Bonds and continued growth and development, the Measure E rates have dropped from \$48.75 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation in 2005-06 to \$39.39 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation for 2006-07.

The Measure E tax rate will continue to go down as District-wide assessed valuation increases. ■

Budget Summary

School Site	Bond Budget	State Budget	Interest	Total Budget	Projects to Date	Balance
Acacia	\$ 598,542	\$ 2,613,875	\$ 35,960	\$ 3,248,377	\$ 3,248,377	\$ -
Alternative Learning Center	65,820			65,820	65,820	-
Bautista Creek	102,283			102,283	102,283	-
Cottonwood	206,783			206,783	206,783	-
Dartmouth	27,356			27,356	27,356	-
Fruitvale	120,980			120,980	120,980	-
Hamilton Relo (Modernization)	247,497	600,000	766	1,000,766	632,982	367,784
Hamilton Relo (New)		1,783,222		3,566,444	2,403,184	1,163,260
Hamilton (Bond Only)	173,323			173,323	173,323	-
Hemet El	1,096,555			1,096,555	1,096,555	-
Hemet High	1,862,634	6,625,254	79,809	8,567,697	8,567,697	-
Idyllwild	193,183	904,618	11,131	1,108,932	1,108,932	-
Little Lake	649,968	1,491,571	17,178	2,158,717	2,158,717	-
Ramona	378,593	1,818,513	27,981	2,225,087	2,225,087	-
Santa Fe	598,258	2,845,810	41,637	3,485,705	3,485,705	-
Valle Vista	93,188			93,188	93,188	-
West Valley High	194,585			194,585	194,585	-
Whittier	449,769	2,158,687	32,063	2,640,519	2,640,519	-
Winchester	145,801	705,688	7,739	859,228	859,228	-
Issuance Costs	793,989			793,989	792,469	1,520
Harmony	4,649,108	6,112,471	53,463	10,815,042	10,815,042	-
McSweeny	4,647,773	7,160,335	120,853	11,928,961	11,928,961	-
Cawston	7,422,246	6,425,770	137,105	13,985,121	13,985,121	-
Diamond Valley Middle	10,206,272	11,852,246	220,200	22,278,718	22,278,718	-
Tahquitz High School	16,603,957	39,050,197	77,474	72,124,441	67,106,010	5,018,431
Jacob Wiens Permanent	9,262,416	9,262,416		18,524,832	16,520,614	2,004,218
Total	\$60,790,879	\$101,410,673	\$863,359	\$181,393,449	\$172,838,236	\$8,555,213

* Other sources include CFD's and savings from closed out projects

Citizens' Oversight Committee Elects New Officer

The Citizens' Oversight Committee has selected Mrs. Anna Marie Dalbey as Chairperson for the fiscal year 2006-07. Anna Marie is a Realtor in the Hemet/San Jacinto Valley and a parent of a District student. She has served on the Committee for 2 years. Anna Marie replaces Frank Lewis who was Chairperson over the last two years and has now completed his second term as a member of the Citizens' Oversight Committee. ■

Citizens' Oversight Committee Seeks Two New Members

Please contact Richard Beck if you are interested (see page 1 for contact information). ■

Committee Endorses Measure "T" Hemet Unified School Bond

At the September 21 meeting, the Citizens' Oversight Committee approved a proposal by Frank Lewis, outgoing Chairman of the Committee, to endorse Measure "T", the Hemet Unified School District's \$149 million School Facilities Bond on the November 7th election ballot. The Bond is planned to provide \$79 million in local funding for new schools and additions and \$70 million in modernization and upgrades to existing schools. The District is expecting the State to match the District's funding with up to \$80 million.

Mr. Lewis said, "This endorsement (of Measure "T") is an affirmation that the District Staff is utilizing the public funds appropriately and efficiently and that more facilities improvements are urgently needed." ■

Project Status Summary

Site	Expended to Date		Status
	State & Local Funds		
Acacia Middle School	\$	3,259,100	Complete
Alternative Learning Center		65,820	Complete
Bautista Creek		102,283	Complete
Cottonwood		206,683	Complete
Diamond Valley Middle (new)		20,712,800	Complete
Hamilton School		3,036,167	Construction complete. Occupied August, 2006
Harmony Elementary (new)		10,650,265	Complete
Hemet Elementary		1,096,555	Complete
Hemet High		8,567,697	Complete
Idyllwild		1,126,190	Complete
Jacob Wiens (new)		15,313,037	Complete
Little Lake		2,228,173	Complete
McSweeny (new)		10,497,031	Complete
Santa Fe Middle		3,524,309	Complete
Tahquitz High School (new)		67,106,010	Construction started Spring 2005. Anticipated occupancy Fall 2007
Valle Vista		93,188	Complete
West Valley High		194,585	Complete
Winchester		866,438	Complete

“Oversight Role” is Taken Seriously by Committee Members

There was a recent editorial in a local newspaper which stated that maybe the Citizens’ Oversight Committee does not take its role seriously. This is totally contrary to the goals and intent of the members of the Citizens’ Oversight Committee. The members volunteered to serve on the Committee to assure the public that Measure E funds were spent wisely.

The role of the Committee is to oversee the use of all Measure E General Obligation Bond funds and to assure the District’s compliance with the specific Measure E projects listed that was adopted by the Governing Board as an exhibit to the resolu-

tion authorizing the bond election. State law requires that the District only expend funds on listed school facility projects included in the bond resolution adoption. State law also directs the Committee to review cost savings measures taken by the District.

The Committee has reviewed all expenditure reports provided by staff on a quarterly basis and has carefully reviewed the findings of each annual audit of the Building Fund. The Committee has thoroughly scrutinized the District’s expenditures. Although appropriate, the Committee asked the District to fund construction related

legal costs from another source of funds. This is only one example of the Committee’s commitment.

We will continue to review all expenditures, carefully review all financial reports and audits, evaluate cost savings, tour the projects and ask important questions of staff. The Committee does wish to commend District staff for their information, effective planning and financial management of Measure E. The Measure E Citizens’ Oversight Committee will continue to monitor the public’s money carefully and thoroughly. ■

Oversight Committee Tours Measure E Projects

The Citizens' Oversight Committee has continued its site visits to Measure E funded projects by touring the new Tahquitz High School on May 26, 2006 and the Hamilton addition and modernization projects on September 14, 2006.

Tahquitz High School, located at Commonwealth Street and Cawston Avenue in northwest Hemet is proceeding on schedule to open August of 2007. The first phase will accommodate over 1400 students. The second phase is contingent on Measure T or other funding sources. The first phase includes regular classrooms, gym, library, theatre, science tech labs, baseball fields, administration and other specialty classrooms.

The Hamilton addition to the K-8 campus is the first major set of permanent classrooms devoted to the middle grades. Other elementary classrooms were added to replace six older dilapidated portable classrooms removed from the elementary campus. The District constructed a new high school several years ago on the



Tahquitz High School Construction Progress



New Buildings at Hamilton School



Aerial Photo of Tahquitz High School

adjacent property. The addition consists of a two story building separating the middle and elementary school complex. ■

Citizens' Oversight Committee Meetings

Meetings are held at the District Office, located at:

2350 West Latham Avenue
Hemet, CA 92545



Meetings are scheduled as follows but are subject to change (check web site for status):

- ◆ January 18, 2007
- ◆ April 19, 2007