

Citizens' Oversight Committee Report on Measure "E"

Please e-mail the Hemet Unified School District to request additional information:

MeasureE@hemetUSD.k12.ca.us

The Citizens' Oversight Committee is *Excited* about Measure "E"

The Measure "E Citizens' Oversight Committee hopes the public has had a chance to review our two previous reports on the Committee's analysis of the Measure E General Obligation Bond. We have presented the Committee's roles and responsibilities up front in each of our reports and now have summarized them on the last page.

The nine member Citizens' Oversight Committee, appointed by the Hemet Unified School District Governing Board, has been entrusted to review all expenditures to ensure they are expended appropriately and costs saving measures are being incorporated in the use of the funds.

The Committee reviewed the draft performance audit in November for the 2001/02 fiscal year and reviewed the final report on July 17, 2003. The first audit has indicated the first expenditures on Measure E were proper. The audit for the 2002/03 year will be presented at the November 2003 meeting of the Citizens' Oversight Committee.

We are *excited* to see the effects of the Measure E funds and their expenditures, as we have toured the facilities to see first hand the improvements that are being made with the proceeds. It is excit-

ing to see the two new schools, Harmony and McSweeny Elementary Schools, which are nearing completion for the fall opening.

We had the pleasure of attending the "barn-raising" of the new middle school. The walls are up and framing and wall sheeting are completed, well ahead of schedule for its fall 2004 opening. The Cawston Elementary School project on Menlo and Cawston is currently in the grading process, with its scheduled completion date of July 2004.

We are *excited* about the modernization projects, which commenced the day school was out in June. Hemet High School's modernization project will replace all the interior classroom walls. There are six modernization projects including: Hemet High School, Acacia and Santa Fe Middle Schools, and Little Lake, Ramona, and Whittier Elementary Schools. Other Measure E projects have been completed or are in progress, much of the work evident if you drive by the schools.

We are also *excited* about the recent Series B bonds, which were issued in June 2003. This second series was for \$15 million at a total interest cost of 3.99%. This is the lowest general obligation bond interest rate in over 25 years. The district

has now issued \$38 million of the \$60 million bond authorization. We are pleased to see the district receive an A- bond rating, superb considering the economy and State budget crisis.

The district hired two longtime, veteran administrators to open Harmony and McSweeny Elementary Schools, Jim Olynger and Marcy Savage.

We are *excited* about the receipt of State funding from Proposition 47, providing matching funds for Measure E. We have received \$44.8 million in State funding on the projects to date, and expect \$37 million more in State funding under the new State bond. These funds represent part of our matching share and the State share for the new high school, which is in the site selection process.

As a committee, we continue to meet every other month to review the Measure E budget, expenditure reports, the projects and activity lists.

Joe Wojcik, Chairman

Joe Wojcik, Chairman

Inside this Issue

- Budget Summary
- Status of Projects
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Roles & Responsibilities

Mr. Joe Wojcik, Chairman ♦ Mr. Gerry Agnes, Vice Chairman ♦ Mr. James Calkins ♦ Mr. Robert Kaylor
Mr. Frank Lewis ♦ Ms. Margaret (Peggy) Kissack ♦ Mr. John McCain ♦ Mr. Rohn West

Budget Summary

School Site	Measure E Bond	State Prop 47	Total
Acacia	\$ 598,542	\$ 2,579,201	\$ 3,177,743
Alternative Learning Center	65,820		65,820
Bautista Creek	102,283		102,283
Cottonwood	206,783		206,783
Dartmouth	27,356		27,356
Fruitvale	341,424		341,424
Hamilton	420,820		420,820
Hemet El	1,096,555		1,096,555
Hemet High	1,379,650	6,625,254	8,004,904
Idyllwild	193,183	904,618	1,097,801
Little Lake	644,802	1,463,299	2,108,101
Ramona	378,593	2,219,040	2,597,633
Santa Fe	598,258	2,810,717	3,408,975
Valle Vista	206,569		206,569
West Valley High	194,585		194,585
Whittier	449,769	2,125,249	2,575,018
Winchester	145,801	689,688	835,489
Issuance Costs	588,714		588,714
Subtotal	7,639,507	19,417,066	27,056,573
Harmony	4,648,886	6,112,248	10,761,134
McSweeny	4,647,995	7,160,335	11,808,330
Cawston	7,119,681	6,497,393	13,617,074
Diamond Valley Middle	10,206,272	11,852,246	22,058,518
New High School #1	24,327,241	28,748,320	53,075,561
Jacob Wiens Permanent	5,747,000	5,747,000	11,494,000
Subtotal	64,336,582	85,534,608	149,871,190
*Less Developer Fee Contribution	(4,231,512)	-	(4,231,512)
Total	\$ 60,105,070	\$ 85,534,608	\$ 145,639,678
* \$222,711.16 x 19 quarters			
Shaded schools denote State Modernization Projects and local bond must be budgeted at 20%			

New School Locations & Projected Opening

Harmony Elementary - Fall 2003

1500 S. Cawston Ave., Hemet 92545

McSweeny Elementary - Fall 2003

451 W. Chambers Street, Hemet 92543

Diamond Valley Middle School - Fall 2004

291 W. Chambers Street, Hemet 92543

Cawston Elementary - Fall 2004

4000 W. Menlo Ave., Hemet 92545

New Elementary #4 (J. Wiens permanent site) - Fall 2005

In the area of State/Menlo/Devonshire/Gilbert Streets

New High School #1 - Fall 2007

Tentatively in the northwest section of the District, north of Florida Ave. Site selection is in progress.

Citizens' Oversight Committee Meetings

Meetings are held at the District Office, located at:

2350 West Latham Avenue

Hemet, CA 92545

Meetings begin at 6:30 pm on the following dates:

September 18, 2003

November 20, 2003



Status of Projects

New School Construction

- **Harmony Elementary School:** The project is in the final stages with painting, carpet installation, landscaping and finish work taking place in preparation for the August 2003 opening.
- **McSweeny Elementary School:** The project is in the final stages with painting, carpet installation, landscaping and finish work taking place in preparation for the August 2003 opening.
- **Diamond Valley Middle School:** The project is in the final stages with painting, carpet installation, landscaping and finish work taking place in preparation for the August 2004 opening.
- **Cawston Elementary School:** The grading is in progress with the over-excavation and import of fill taking place.
- **New Elementary No. 4 (Jacob Wiens):** Three sites are being analyzed as a part of the site selection process.
- **New High School:** The environmental process for the property on the northeast corner of Esplanade and Sanderson is in progress.

Major Repairs and Upgrades (Modernization)

- **Acacia Middle School:** All student restrooms and the kitchen are undergoing renovations during the summer. A fire alarm upgrade is also in progress.
- **Alessandro/Alternative Learning Center:** Security fencing and lunch shelter are complete with lunch tables and trash receptacles acquired.
- **Bautista Creek Elementary School:** Playground equipment was purchased and installed.
- **Cottonwood School:** Lunch shelter installation and access sidewalk are complete.
- **Dartmouth Middle School:** Security fencing is complete.
- **Fruitvale Elementary School:** Playground equipment has been installed and is complete.
- **Hamilton School:** Sidewalks, security fencing, minor electrical upgrades and computer network cabling are complete.
- **Hemet Elementary School:** The lunch shelter, ball wall and P.E. hard court areas are complete. The communication upgrade, Phase I electrical upgrade and new administration building is scheduled to begin in October 2003.
- **Hemet High School:** The \$6M renovation, which includes a new chiller system, restroom upgrades and a complete interior rebuilding of the 2-story classroom wing is in process and on schedule.
- **Idyllwild School:** Kitchen renovation and playground improvements are complete.
- **Little Lake Elementary School:** The electrical upgrade, restroom renovations and kitchen renovation are in progress and will be completed prior to the start of school in August.
- **Ramona Elementary School:** The electrical upgrade and restroom renovations are in progress and on schedule for an August completion date.
- **Santa Fe Middle School:** A major electrical upgrade, renovation of student restrooms and a kitchen renovation are moving rapidly toward the scheduled August due date.
- **Valle Vista Elementary School:** Computer network cabling and playground equipment installation are complete.
- **West Valley High School:** The wrought iron security fence is scheduled to start in July.
- **Whittier Elementary School:** The renovation of student restrooms and the electrical upgrade are in progress and on schedule.
- **Winchester Elementary School:** Computer network cabling, security fencing and playground equipment access ramps are complete. □

2001-02 Audit Complete

The 2001-02 annual audit was prepared in November 2002 and reviewed by the Citizens' Oversight Committee. The audit will be finalized by September for final review and approval. The 2003 audit will be complete, reviewed and accepted by the Committee at the November 20, 2003 meeting. □

Frequently Asked Questions

➤ Are there restrictions on bond funds?

Bond funds can be spent on site acquisition and development; school facilities design and construction related costs; furniture; and to equip the schools, subject to the bond projects list. Bond funds cannot be spent on administrator and/or teacher salaries or operational costs.

➤ What are the requirements for construction related expenditures?

The Division of State Architect reviews all construction plans. The agency enforces the code improvements needed for the American with Disabilities Act, fire code, and structural safety. There are also requirements that must be met for the Health Department, the Playground Safety Act, and general safety. At some campuses, the combination of State funds and Measure E funds was consumed by these requirements leaving little money for aesthetic improvements.

➤ What is the bidding process? Are penalties invoked if the project is late?

Building plans, specifications and bidding conditions are carefully prepared, the district formally advertises for bids by placing notices in the newspaper and trade publications indicating the date, time, and place for bidding. Any project over \$15,000 must be competitively bid in the State of California. The sealed bids are opened in public at the designated time and the work is awarded to the lowest responsive bidder who must then provide performance and payment bonds guaranteeing the work and project completion. Failure by this bidder to complete the project on time results in the imposition of liquidated damages, which is a daily penalty deducted from the contracted price. For projects between \$5,000 and \$15,000, the district solicits three (3) competitive quotes. All public works projects over \$1,000 are required to pay prevailing wages. These projects are required to be inspected by an approved Division of State Architect inspector with the cost of the inspector paid by the District.

Role, Responsibility, and Legal Authority

Measure E, the \$60 million General Obligation School Facilities Bond, was approved by the voters on March 5, 2002, subject to Proposition 39 (2000). The provisions of Proposition 39 are incorporated in Article XIII A of the California Constitution and the Education Code. The provisions for general obligation bonds are unique in that they (1) limit tax assessments to a maximum of 60% of state allowable bonding capacity, and (2) require the formation of a Citizens' Oversight Committee. The committee selection of members and

their role, responsibility and authority are established in statutes.

The purpose of the committee is to inform the public on expenditures of the bond revenues as authorized by the voters and ensure accountability that the funds are spent prudently and appropriately.

Responsibilities

- 1) Review and report on proper expenditure of Measure E funds;
- 2) Advise the public whether the district is in compliance with the

requirements of Proposition 39:

- 3) Ensure bond funds are not spent on teacher or administrative salaries or school operational expenses;
- 4) Conduct open meetings under provisions of the Brown Act;
- 5) Issue regular reports and results of activities and issues at least once a year; and
- 6) Make all documents and reports available to the public on the district's web site. □