

Ms. Chris Miller
528 W Maple Avenue
El Segundo, CA 90245
Chrismillerphotography4@gmail.com

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Governor Jerry Brown
State of California
c/o State Capital, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen of California, a former resident of Hermosa Beach, CA and a former volunteer for your Presidential campaign in 1976 at your Santa Monica campaign headquarters to request your urgent attention on a matter that is important to all Californians. The subject is school districts using hired consultants to exploit taxpayers into paying millions in unnecessary facility bonds based on misinformation and political maneuvering.

Although I no longer live in Hermosa Beach, I grew up there. I wrote and compiled the book *Images of America – Hermosa Beach* (2005) a photo history of Hermosa Beach. Of particular interest and importance to me has always been the Hermosa Beach school system. I attended kindergarten through 8th grade in Hermosa Beach schools; particularly North School for kindergarten through 5th grade and Pier Avenue School for 6th grade through 8th grade.

Over the last 15 years I and other residents of Hermosa Beach have been battling a war of misinformation perpetrated by the Hermosa Beach City School District School Board members and the Hermosa Beach City Council members to deny the students of Hermosa Beach the use of Pier Avenue School as a campus. Pier Avenue School's 4.3 acre campus (which is adjacent to approximately 4+ acres of excellent playfields) was sold to the City in 1978 for \$650,000 when district-wide enrollment dropped. According to the Sale and Purchase Agreement of Pier Avenue School, Exhibit B, a provision was put in place that allows the district use of classroom space when enrollment increases, which has been the case since 2010. However the City Council and School Board have conspired to hide this option from taxpayers. This deception has continued to the present and recently culminated in the School District offering a \$59 million dollar bond, 2016 Measure S, that denies taxpayers and students the option to use Pier Avenue School campus for 500 students, or renovate the iconic 1934 North School for 300 students. The District used misinformation and hired consultants and attorneys to convince voters that they had no other choice than to completely demolish North School and build a brand new, massive campus in an already impacted residential neighborhood. Measure S was passed using illegal and unethical activity by the City and HBCSD that also violated California Education Codes controlling political activities by School Districts (7050- 7058). We allege that

HBCSD consultants and attorneys purposely misinformed taxpayers through reports and presentations that bolstered the School District's desire to needlessly and completely demolish and rebuild North School at a cost to taxpayers of \$34 million dollars. Now six months after the bonds was passed by voters updated enrollment estimates from the district's hired demographic consultant report enrollment dropping by about 200 students by the time the new campus opens!

Several weeks ago one of my colleagues, Miyo Prassas, sent a copy of information and a six paged affidavit to you that she had sent to the Public Integrity Division of the District Attorney's Office in Los Angeles on April 13, 2017. She requested your help in bringing our situation to the attention of the District Attorney's office since time is of the essence with HBCSD building plans.

Not only is this a concern to me as a historian and former resident of Hermosa Beach, but also as a taxpayer. The School District's attorney stated during a one hour presentation to the public relating to Measure S, which cost of \$11K to Hermosa taxpayers to pay him to prepare, that renovating another similar campus had cost fifty million dollars, stating he knew this because he had personally worked on the matter. The truth is that the renovations cost four million dollars. The same attorney represented that he works with hundreds of schools districts throughout Southern California and that the same "team" that was working for the Hermosa school bond was working for the Torrance Unified School district facilities bond. I am concerned that the myriad consultants who work to pass facility bonds are potentially unduly profiting off of school districts by representing themselves as "experts" to deceive taxpayers into passing unnecessarily expensive and superfluous facility bonds.

I request that you please take special interest in our case and encourage the District Attorney's office in Los Angeles to take speedy action to further investigate our allegations. We have much more information and proof that will substantiate our allegations that we did not send to the District Attorney's office in order not to overwhelm them with information. We believe that the actions taken by the Hermosa Beach City School District and their hired consultants during their bond campaign last Spring 2016 are a perfect test case for an examination of possible misdoings regarding facility bonds in school districts throughout the State of California.

Sincerely,

Chris Miller