



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Edward M. Brand, Ed.D.
Superintendent

September 5, 2012

Mr. Nick Marinovich
2488 La Costa Ave.
Chula Vista, CA 91915

Dear Mr. Marinovich:

On behalf of SUHSD Board President Pearl Quiñones, let me first extend my thanks to you for volunteering your time to serve on the Prop. O Citizens' Advisory Committee. We appreciate your dedication to the work of the committee.

Having recently filled three of the four vacant positions on the CBOC, and with expectations of filling the final vacancy this month, the district leadership also looks forward to entering a new era of improved communications with you and your members. As such, we welcome the comments provided in your letter of Aug. 20.

We firmly believe that the best ideas emerge from discussion and we seek to provide the CBOC with the information necessary to perform its function. In accordance with the Brown Act, we will continue to provide notice of the CBOC meetings, agenda, backup documentation and minutes through posted notice, public documents in the Board of Trustees office and via the district website. In order to make our online information more user-friendly, a redesigned Sweetwater website was launched on Aug. 27. The Prop O website is in the process of conversion to improve the functionality and ease of use. Refinements continue to be made.

However, we respectfully disagree with the suggestion that the district should hire a financial consultant to serve the CBOC on an "as needed basis." This is not realistic given the severe constraints bearing down on district finances. In fact, in order to adopt a balanced budget, the Board of Trustees was forced to implement \$27 million in budget reductions, including the elimination of staff positions. Given this dire economic reality, the district is unable to hire a financial specialist specifically to serve the CBOC. However, there is an array of expertise readily available from professionals who may be called upon to provide insight to the committee. Several of the law firms provide Brown Act training for the Board and Cabinet. The CBOC was provided with a Brown Act training manual for your reference from one of the most recent trainings.

As for the recommendation that the district underwrite a "forensic audit" of the Prop O program, since its inception the Prop O bond program has undergone repeated, detailed audits. Already, the district has conducted five audits of Prop O including the annual audits and the performance audit conducted by Eric Hall & Associates. The proposed scope of work outlined in your letter accurately describes the work done by Eric Hall & Associates. Therefore, we believe that conducting a "forensic audit" would be both redundant and an excessive expense.

Thank you again for your continued service on behalf of the Sweetwater Union High School District.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Brand, Ed.D.
Superintendent

The Sweetwater Union High School District will fulfill the promise of 100% student success.

Sweetwater Union High School District programs and activities shall be free from discrimination based on gender, sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation or the perception of one or more of such characteristics.

SUHSD Board Policy 0410.