

**AGENDA ITEM #7**  
**REQUEST FOR DISTRICT ACQUISITION AND POSTING OF GRAND JURY**  
**TRANSCRIPTS TO THE**  
**PROPOSITION O WEB SITE**

For the last week, I have I had the opportunity to review at least 10% of 26 volumes of testimony given to the San Diego County Grand Jury relative to the South Bay school construction corruption investigation and prosecution. The vast majority of what I've seen so far relates directly and indirectly to the expenditure of school bond proceeds including Sweetwater's Proposition O.

Background on Transcripts. There is testimony regarding Bond Oversight Best Practice issues, information on how contract procurement and bidding occurs, a description of how a Program is managed and the roles of its players, the potential relationships between staff, the Superintendent, consultants/contractors and elected officials. and importantly they provide information that could be used by the public and CBOC to assist us in our roles of Bond Oversight.

The Transcripts provide a description of the how bond programs could operate without real oversight and transparency and provide us guidance on what should be considered and reviewed for future projects, audits, and program accountability. In short, the Transcripts are educational.

Statutory Justification. Pursuant to Education Code 15278, this CBOC's statutory mandate and mission is to independently investigate, review and report to the public on the expenditure of Sweetwater's bond proceeds. To properly fulfill our duties in this regard I feel it is necessary for us to obtain, review and report to the public on all 26 volumes of grand jury testimony and their related exhibits. It should also be noted Section 15280 (a) states the following with respect to CBOC assistance: provide the citizens' oversight committee with any necessary technical assistance and provide administrative assistance in furtherance of its purpose and sufficient resources to publicize the conclusions of the citizens' oversight committee"

There are three primary reasons why I believe this request is beneficial: 1) it would put the all of the disparate and individual publication of excerpts thus far along with unpublished ones in one central location 2) the CBOC's Web site would get greater visibility and thus expose the importance of Bond Oversight 3) by making information more easily accessible for review by the CBOC and the public that supports such efforts, the gesture is consistent with a 2003 Grand Jury Finding which stated: "Open a regular formal dialog with the Bond Oversight Committee that gives them more consideration to that body's advice and the rationale for them."

Chair Recommendation:

1. Direct that the Chair write a letter on behalf of the Committee formally requesting two checks from the Sweetwater Union High School District in the amounts of \$766.11 payable to Betty Ashe CSR and \$1249.12 payable to Donna Foster CSR for me to hand deliver to them along with two thumb drives for them to provide us .pdf and electronic full text searchable transcripts of the 26 volumes of testimony given to the San Diego County Grand Jury relative to the South Bay school construction corruption investigation and prosecution.
2. Upon receipt of the transcripts and pending further review of any logistical and related issues, request staff in concert with the CBOC post the Transcripts on the Proposition O Web site in text searchable format.

It is recognized that this request does require further review of actually how this would be implemented consistent with all applicable laws and regulations and logistical issues. At minimum the CBOC should immediately have the opportunity to read and review all Grand Jury Transcripts in hard copy form in a convenient environment.

In closing, the District has stated they want transparency. Here is an opportunity to show they mean business by granting our request to further report to the public in a transparent matter. Education Code 15278 (b) states: "The purpose of the citizens' oversight committee shall be to inform the public concerning the expenditure of bond revenues. The citizens' oversight committee shall actively review and report on the proper expenditure of taxpayers' money for school construction".