

HACIENDA LA PUENTE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 12, 2025

SUBJECT: Concerns raised and the interest to pause all facility improvements at Palm Elementary School

PURPOSE: To inform the Board and Superintendent of further background information regarding concerns raised and the interest to pause all facility improvements at Palm Elementary School

ISSUES/ANALYSIS:

Several items on tonight's Board Meeting agenda pertain to Facilities projects at Palm Elementary School. During the agenda review, couple of Board Members raised concerns regarding potential soil contamination and the status of environmental testing at the site. Currently, there are three major Facilities projects either underway or scheduled for Palm Elementary:

1. Fire Alarm Upgrade (Agenda Item 5.04.c – June 12, 2025)
2. Roofing Upgrade (Approved by the Board on May 8, 2025)
3. Measure BB Bond Modernization Project (Agenda Item 7.01.b – June 12, 2025)

1. Fire Alarm Upgrade

This project is essential regardless of the site's occupancy status. The current fire alarm system is non-functional and fails to meet code requirements. Under Health and Safety Code Section 13146.3, local fire authorities are required to inspect and test school fire alarm systems, and Palm Elementary has received citations for deficiencies.

All District sites—active or inactive—must maintain a functional fire alarm system capable of automatically notifying fire authorities in case of emergency. Additionally, maintaining a code-compliant system is critical to meeting property insurance requirements. This applies to Palm Elementary as well as the District's four recently closed sites. For these reasons, the District must proceed with the fire alarm upgrade.

2. Roofing Upgrade

Although this project is not required by regulation, multiple active roof leaks have been reported in classroom areas. Proceeding with the roofing contract—already approved by the Board—is strongly recommended to protect the building envelope and prevent further deterioration. Canceling an awarded contract could expose the District to potential legal liability from the contractor.

3. Measure BB Bond Modernization Project

The Division of the State Architect (DSA) has approved architectural plans for the Measure BB Bond project at Palm Elementary, and the District has issued construction bids accordingly. The plan involved relocating students to Los Robles Elementary as interim housing during construction.

Originally, the project was bundled with three other school sites—Sparks ES, Wing Lane ES, and Valinda. In response to concerns raised during Board agenda review, the District has revised the bid structure to allow for two options under Agenda Item 7.01.b: (1) award the contract for all four schools, or (2) exclude Palm ES from the bundle.

It is important to note that postponing the Palm ES project may result in higher future costs due to inflation in the construction market. The District will proceed based on the Board's direction regarding the timing and scope of the Palm Elementary bond-funded upgrade.

Budget Implications: Potential Cost increase TBD

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