

TAXPAYERS FOR ACCOUNTABLE SCHOOL BOND SPENDING V. SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUPERIOR COURT IMPLEMENTS ACTION ON COURT RULING REGARDING IMPROPER CEQA STUDIES AND USE OF SCHOOL BOND FUNDS

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SAN DIEGO:

Yesterday, the San Diego Superior Court made a well-considered ruling that makes the best of the bad situation created by the San Diego Unified School District. While wisely allowing last night's Hoover High School football game to go forward, the court ordered the stadium lights be kept off indefinitely thereafter until a valid Environmental Impact Report is performed and it is determined whether the stadium lights are proper. In so ruling, Judge Taylor wrote: "The last thing this court wants to do is disrupt the lives of the student athletes at Hoover, or those of their coaches, families, and student body supporters. However, the court's hands are tied" because "the stadium lights were illegally approved" but the San Diego Unified School District nonetheless chose to erect those lights while the courts were in the process of determining whether they were legal. The "law is clear" that the San Diego Unified School District "bears the risk of an adverse determination." Additionally, Judge Taylor ordered the district to provide, within 30 days, a detailed financial accounting of all costs it has unlawfully used Prop S funds for stadium lighting throughout the school district so that it can be determined how much money might have to be paid back.

Ron Anderson, president of TAXPAYERS FOR ACCOUNTABLE SCHOOL BOND SPENDING was pleased with the bitter-sweet ruling, calling it "a wise balancing of everyone's interests, especially given the difficult situation created by the San Diego Unified School District." He added "Why does the District continue to push aside projects specifically listed in the bond measure and instead implement controversial projects that are not specifically listed in the bond or supported by the Districts' own facilities needs assessment? Due to the strict requirements of a Prop 39 school bond measure, the District needs to stop making promises to the schools it can't keep. We hope this is a wake-up call to the District to start acting more responsibly when spending taxpayer money because its actions have consequences for the students, the surrounding communities, and taxpayers".

*Taxpayers for Accountable School Bond Spending is a nonprofit group with members and supporters throughout the City formed for the purpose of ensuring taxpayer school bond money is only used to promote intended and disclosed quality educational facilities, while at the same time preserving neighborhood values. More information can be found at: <http://www.tfasbs.org>