

Press Release

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Community Taxpayer Group Disappointed with Appellate Court Ruling Regarding the Payback of Illegally Spent Bond Funds by the San Diego Unified School District

After Prevailing in Court in 2013, and Fighting for Two Years for a payback of Illegally Spent Bond Proceeds, the Taxpayers Group learned today that the District will not be required to payback illegally spent bond money.

SAN DIEGO – On June 11, 2015 the state of California, Court of Appeal in the San Diego district (Fourth District) denied the appellant Taxpayers for Accountable School Bond Spending and now approximately \$2.7M of illegally spent Prop S bond money on athletic stadium lighting at Hoover High School, and multiple other schools, will not be required to be repaid with new or replacement funding and be made available for proper bond-authorized projects.

The June 11, 2015 decision of the Court of Appeal arises after a 2 year battle by the Taxpayers group to seek justice and retribution under the most basic principle that – *when you take something that is not yours, then you have to give it back.* The trial court, for a number of inapplicable reasons, had incorrectly denied Taxpayers’ multiple requests to *do the right thing* and require restitution. The Appellate court upheld the trial court’s decision.

Ron Anderson, the President of the Taxpayers group was disappointed by the Court’s ruling: “The thought that San Diego Unified can illegally spend money without recourse and a remedy flies in the face of common sense and everything we were taught about fairness and justice – that there is a remedy for every wrong. The thought that the courts will continue to allow the illegal expenditures to remain, as if nothing wrong happened, is appalling.”

Counsel for the Taxpayers group, Craig A. Sherman, was equally displeased: “We always believed that the laws supported repayment and that our judicial branch would make this one right. Public agencies that think they are immune from the repayment of illegally spent money continue to need a serious wake-up call and be punished. The court’s ruling does little to instill a faith and belief that government agencies will be held accountable.”

Taxpayers is continuing to review the decision and its options as to whether appeal the matter further or file some other form of a new action for monetary recovery.

Taxpayers for Accountable School Bond Spending is a member and supporter organization that was formed to improve accountability of the School District in both the raising and spending of taxpayer

funds. It is comprised of numerous volunteers and hundreds of named contributing supporters throughout the San Diego community. The Taxpayers group also maintains a website that provides information to the community and acts as a forum for identifying and solving community problems created by the School District related to its expansion and spending abuses of two school bond funds passed as Propositions S and Z with a combined dollar figure of approximately \$5B.

More information is available online at www.tfasbs.org

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