



# ACTON·AGUA DULCE

## UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

"NOTHING GOLD CAN STAY" - ROBERT FROST

### General Obligation-GO Bond Update

The District has very limited opportunities to obtain funding for capital improvement projects due to its location in a rural community with minimal residential or commercial growth. Past school construction or modernization projects have been funded primarily through State School Facilities Priority (SFP) Funding, which requires local matching funds, and GO bonds, which are authorized by local voters.

Meadowlark School has experienced overcrowding for several years. Classes have been occupying all regular classrooms as well as three additional areas intended for other school purposes.

In 2015/16 the District began actions to reopen Acton School to house 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to alleviate overcrowding at Meadowlark School. Approximately \$1,000,000 of funding was committed to the Acton School project for deferred maintenance type improvements. Certain improvements triggered plan review and approval by the Department of the State Architect (DSA), which is the primary school construction oversight agency. DSA issued a stop work order pending approval of Acton School plans that bring the campus up to current standards in the areas of Fire/Life/Safety, Structural, and Access for Individuals with Disabilities. The change in the scope of work, and plan design and review to meet requirements increased the timeline and the cost of the Acton School project. Projected total cost to complete Acton School is \$1,800,000 - \$2,700,000 depending on the inclusion of certain improvements that enhance safety and learning. The District does not currently have sufficient funding to complete the Acton School project.

The District considered various housing options to relieve overcrowding at Meadowlark School until sufficient funding to reopen Acton School can be obtained. The only feasible option at the current time is to move 5<sup>th</sup> grade to High Desert School. When funding for the Acton School project is obtained, construction will resume and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will occupy the campus as initially planned.

The District also desires to complete Phase 3 at Vasquez High School (basketball and tennis courts and lighting), complete improvements at Agua Dulce School, and obtain the required 40 percent of matching funds required to access \$3.14 million dollars in state school modernization grant funding. Three scenarios have been presented previously, and a fourth scenario will be presented to fully access available funding. Scenarios outlining how bond proceeds could be used to access the benefits of State Grant Funding and increase the Total Funding will be considered by the public during a

community input meeting on May 23, 2018 and by the Board of Trustees on May 24, 2018. Scenarios for possible inclusion on the November 2018 ballot include:

- Scenario 1: \$3.00MM Bonds plus \$0.00MM SFP Grants = \$3.00MM Total Funding
- Scenario 2: \$4.75MM Bonds plus \$1.20MM SFP Grants = \$5.95MM Total Funding
- Scenario 3: \$6.20MM Bonds plus \$3.14MM SFP Grants = \$9.34MM Total Funding
- Scenario 4: \$7.50MM Bonds plus \$3.14MM SFP Grants = \$10.64MM Total Funding

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Payment to CFW is contingent upon successful passage of a bond measure and issuance of a bond, and receipt of School Facility grant funds.

The tax rate for property owners is dependent upon the amount authorized as defined in ballot language and 55 percent of greater voter approval of the ballot measure. The projected tax rate for the scenarios included range from \$6.00 - \$14.70 per \$100,000 of assessed value.