

**PROPERTIES SURROUNDING THE ASHLEY FALLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ARE ENCUMBERED FOR 19 MORE YEARS BY A MELLO – ROOS PROPERTY TAX WHICH FUNDED THE BUILDING OF THE SCHOOL**

I appreciate the willingness of this 7-11 Committee to undertake what may become a very distasteful task in determining whether or not a DMUSD school should indeed close. I do not envy any of you your job right now.

Closing any school is a very contentious issue for the entire community at large. This responsibility should not be taken lightly. The effects of a school site closing are certain to be everlasting, not only for the children, but for their parents, and the taxpayers, as well.

Although I no longer have a student in the Del Mar Union School District, I am a resident and taxpayer just the same. My concerns are not only for the hundreds of students who will potentially be displaced, but for the taxpaying voters in this School District.

Unlike many of the older areas comprising the DMUSD, the Ashley Falls boundary area falls within a “Community Facilities Assessment District” (“CFD”), also known as a Mello-Roos taxation area. There is a Mello-Roos tax that all Ashley Falls area properties have been paying for 11 years, with 19 more years to go before that debt is finally retired. This Mello-Roos served to fund the building of my neighborhood school, Ashley Falls. It seems incongruent to me that any committee could even legally conceive of closing a school which falls under the Mello-Roos taxation boundaries.

Carmel Del Mar, Del Mar Heights and Del Mar Hills NEVER had any such Mello-Roos taxation in place. While I am not suggesting that any of these other schools should close, it certainly seems like the school sites that are not ENCUMBERED by the special building tax should be the ones you consider closing first, before Ashley Falls.

Kelli Politoske