

November 21, 2009

Dear Committee Members,

I appreciate the time you have invested in our students, teachers and schools. I have recently been made aware of the 7/11 proposals and the impact that the different proposals will have on our schools. I would like to take this time to express my concerns.

My most pressing concern is the proposal of a 15,0000-20,0000 square foot building to be built on the Torrey Hills campus. This proposal is not logical. I urge you to consider three areas during your deliberation.

First the cost. I strongly feel that the proposal to build a large office building is a massive waste of money. A building that size will dramatically deplete the DMUSD funds. As a committee, you have a responsibility to handle the school district finances in a responsible manner. There are two schools in the district that have low enrollment and closing one of those schools and using that space is a more financially sound decision.

Second, is the impact that the construction will have on the students of Torrey Hills. A building of this size is not something that can be quickly built over the summer. The students classroom time will be negatively impacted by construction noise during the year or more that it will take to build such a large building. Again, this can be elevated by not building a new office space but utilizing one of the existing low enrollment schools in the district.

Finally, the increase of traffic will negatively impact the neighborhood. The area of Torrey Hills is already congested. Traveling to pick up our children on time is a challenge and the parking is very limited already. Adding office buildings to this area would only make this already existing problem even worse. Again, this issue can be elevated by using one of the existing low enrollment schools in the district for office space. Furthermore, there is an area of land on East Ocean Air that has been approved for a large number of condos to be built, which will also negatively impact the traffic and parking issue.

I appreciate that this decision is difficult for you. All I ask is that you remove the emotion from the decision making process and look at the facts. Utilizing one of the existing low enrollment schools in the district for office space is the most logical decision and will ultimately effect the least amount of children.

Thank you for your time,

Michelle Doan
Parent of a Torrey Hills student