



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
August 17, 2009

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PUSD Announces Plans for a Centrally Located District Administration and Community Meeting Facility

The Poway Unified School District Board of Education has given direction to the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent to continue negotiations for entering into an agreement to purchase a centrally located district administration facility. The facility under consideration is a vacant commercial building at the approximate geographical center of the District and is located at 15250 Avenue of Science in Carmel Mountain Ranch. The current administration facility on Twin Peaks Road will be maintained for other educational programs and support services and, when coupled with the new facility, will meet the present and long-term needs of the District.

The Poway Unified School District has a long-standing need to address central administrative facility needs. In the 1960s, PUSD built the current permanent office facilities at a time when the school district served approximately 5,500 students in six schools, all located within the current City of Poway boundaries. Today, more than 33,000 students are enrolled in Poway Unified's 37 schools, many of which are in the city of San Diego and unincorporated county land as the District has grown generally westward. Due to the lack of permanent office space at the Twin Peaks location, many district administration services are currently housed in aging portable buildings, on school

campuses, or in leased office spaces located throughout the District. Over the past four years, the District has paid more than \$1.8 million in rent for these needed leased facilities. In the future, these annual rental costs would be saved and made available to the District's general fund to support schools and instructional programs.

Don Phillips, superintendent, said, "Now that we are completing the construction, remodel and modernization of all of our schools, it is time to attend to the needs of the District's aging and scattered administration facility. Consolidating the District's administrative operations in one building will provide greater efficiencies and effectiveness in our work to support our schools. The Poway Unified School District will be here for many years to come, and there will never be a time when commercial property will be so favorable to a buyer. The Board recognizes now is the time to act."

District representatives also stress that no revenues from the District's general fund or voter approved Proposition U or Proposition C (School Facilities Improvement District) proceeds will be used for the purchase of this property. All funds for this project were generated as a result of mitigation agreements negotiated with developers. These agreements include specific provisions for the acquisition, expansion, or construction of central administrative facilities. By law, these funds cannot be used for any school operations, salaries, materials, or supplies.

The plan design for the facility under consideration would include a large community meeting room, which would be used for monthly meetings of the Board of Education, but would also be available for civic and community groups as well.