CUSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES CONTINUES COMMITMENT TO REDUCE TAX BURDEN, INVITES PUBLIC TO ENGAGE IN DISTRICT OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

In the last five years the District has reduced taxes for Community Facilities Districts (CFD) by nearly 50 percent, or $16.9 million a year.

Board is accepting applications for CFD Citizen’s Oversight and Advisory Commission to provide advice and oversight to the Board of Trustees.

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA – In a series of unanimous votes, the Capistrano Unified Board of Trustees approved resolutions to again lower tax levies, saving taxpayers nearly $1.2 million compared to last year, and further reducing the tax burden on District residents who reside within Community Facilities Districts. In the last five years, the total CFD tax burden has fallen by nearly half, amounting to $16.9 million of savings per year.

The District currently has eight active community facilities districts formed pursuant to the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 between the years of 1990 and 2005 to fund and finance the District’s capital facility needs. The District previously had even older community facilities districts formed in 1987 and 1988, but over the last few years the Board voted to end the taxes and eliminate these old CFDs. Each community facilities district collects special taxes on property within its boundaries to pay for the costs of debt service on outstanding CFD bonds that were used to finance school facilities projects, CFD administration, and formerly facilities needs on a “pay-as-you-go” basis in accordance with the provisions of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982. However, the Board of Trustees voted to eliminate the use of “pay-as-you-go” monies in August of 2016 to help reduce taxes.

“Wednesday night’s votes further the Board’s commitment to being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars by reducing taxes,” stated CUSD Board President Martha McNicholas. “We are committed to building and maintaining a responsible budget that finds a balance between protecting our taxpayers and acknowledging the challenges of our classroom and campus needs, for which the state provides no direct funding.”

Public Oversight and Accountability

Throughout the last few years, the Board of Trustees has added layers of oversight to further enhance transparency and accountability including:
1. Separate, independent CFD audits
2. CFD Audit Reports, CFD Administration Reports and CFD Fiscal Status Reports posted on the District website
3. Development of a CFD Citizens’ Oversight and Advisory Commission
5. CFD Project Expenditure Reports online in our Fiscal Financial Transparency that go back to 1987 at the inception of our first CFD

**Public Engagement and Participation**

The District remains committed to engaging students, parents, community members and employees in District-wide and community-specific decisions. To apply for the School Facilities and Finance Administrative Advisory Committee, please see this link: [https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/committees](https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/committees)

To apply for the CFD Citizen’s Oversight and Advisory Commission, please see the link here: [https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/committees](https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/committees)

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