



HUNTINGTON BEACH TOMORROW

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"Making a difference today for Huntington Beach tomorrow"

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March 6, 2005

Huntington Beach City School Board of Trustees
20451 Craimer Lane
Huntington Beach CA 92646

Subject: School Closure Alternatives

Huntington Beach Tomorrow (HBT) is a citywide organization dedicated to preserving the quality of life for all Huntington Beach citizens. Two of HBT's major goals, preservation of open space and recreation opportunities for all, are threatened by your current decision-making process.

HBT is aware that the Board of Trustees is looking at school-site closure alternatives to solve the school district's current budget problem. Please consider the following information in your analysis and decision-making.

First, the residents of this city expected the school sites would remain an open-space resource when they voted for and paid for the bonds to construct them.

Second, the open space on these sites has been used for recreational purposes since the schools were constructed by thousands of Huntington Beach residents annually. There is no open space available to replace these sites. Once open space is developed it is gone forever.

Third, the school sites are zoned and general plan designated PS (Public-Semipublic). Sale of these sites for other than public-semipublic purposes would require a General Plan amendment, a zone change and an environmental impact report. Completion of these processes would take over a year and approval for such a use change is questionable.

Huntington Beach Tomorrow's position on closed school sites is to preserve the open space and allow development only within the footprint of the existing buildings on the property. The complete position with its supporting rationale can be found at www.hbtomorrow.org.

Huntington Beach Tomorrow recommends you adopt other alternate solutions to solve short-term problems instead of proceeding with a decision that has significant long-term detrimental impacts.

Ed Kerins
President

Copies: Huntington Beach City Council
Huntington Beach City Administrator
Huntington Beach Independent
Huntington Beach Wave