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May 8, 2007

Susan Heredia, President
Ron Dwyer-Voss, Vice-President
Jennifer Baker, Trustee
B. Teri Burns, Trustee
Lisa Kaplan, Trustee
Superintendent Steve Farrar
Natomas Unified School District
1901 Arena Blvd
Sacramento, CA 95834

Dear President Heredia, Trustees and Superintendent Farrar:

Friends of the Swainson's Hawk, Environmental Council Of Sacramento, and Sierra Club are writing to reaffirm our position on the Board's agreement to purchase 41 acres at West Lakeside. Our organizations **continue to adamantly oppose new development outside of the Urban Service Boundary, which in Natomas is the City limit, and outside of the NBHCP Permit areas.** We did not participate in discussion of this purchase because we were unaware of any hearing on the District's deliberations regarding either the purchase of land outside the urban services boundary for the very likely future construction of a school or other district facilities on this site.

People in the community have also voiced major objections to the **secrecy of the board's deliberations** regarding this matter. As far as we can tell, there was absolutely no notice to the public of the Board's consideration of this purchase except for three lines on page 3 of the Board's agenda for its November 8, 2006 meeting. Agendas for numerous board meetings before and after showed closed session discussions of possible acquisition of several properties identified only by parcel number, which effectively concealed the identity of the property being considered for acquisition. During open discussions in 2005 regarding the former Westlake school site, members of the community, Sierra Club and Friends of the Swainson's Hawk, voiced their opposition to the construction of a school on the West Lakeside property; and both the Mayor of Sacramento and the City Councilmember representing Natomas stated that a new school should not be located west of the existing City limit.

We also notice that the District retained two law firms to represent and advise it as to the acquisition (Hefner, Stark, Marois) and environmental review (Remy, Thomas, Moose, and Manley) of the purchase, which have represented and continue to represent the seller, AKT development, and various AKT entities, on numerous major development projects. Title of the property was in the name of West Lakeside LLC, an entity of AKT Development. The grossly inflated purchase price

was based on an appraisal report which states that the District and Seller agreed that the appraised valuation would be based on the "extraordinary assumption" that the larger West Lakeside property would be annexed and approved for development within a year of May 2006 - **an assumption which was totally false and without basis.** To say that the **District's actions in connection with its purchase of the property and expenditure of \$13.4 million (approx. \$326,400 per acre)** were "highly irregular" would be an understatement.

Sierra Club and Friends of the Swainson's Hawk, both member organizations of ECOS, the Environmental Council of Sacramento, have previously communicated, by letters to Board members and senior District staff dated March 1, 2005 and March 20, 2006, some of the compelling reasons why constructing a school or other District facilities on the "West Lakeside" site is highly inappropriate and may well not be permitted. The District never responded. Two ECOS Board members (Jude Lamare and Jim Pachl) met with Superintendent Farrar and two Board members in 2005, and with Deputy Superintendent Harding in March 2006 to voice our concerns and advise them of the major environmental and other barriers to development of a school on West Lakeside.

For the reasons stated above and in our previous letters dated March 2005 and March 2006, **Friends of the Swainson's Hawk, ECOS, The Environmental Council of Sacramento and Sierra Club urge that the Board initiate those steps necessary to rescind its purchase of the property.** Moreover, because there was no CEQA compliance in connection with the purchase, **as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15005(b)(2), the District should not take any steps such as sale of other properties currently held as school sites that either assume the West Lakeside site will be developed for school facilities or otherwise limit options for use of the site.**

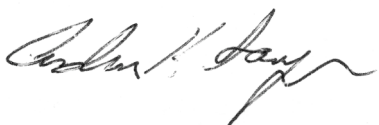
Sincerely,



Jude Lamare,
President, Friends of the Swainson's Hawk
916-447-4956



Terry Davis
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