

Measure E  
“Excellence-A New Middle School at the Moss Landing Site”

“To reopen and rebuild Moss Landing Middle School, constructing new campus classrooms, buildings and library, replacing infrastructure, providing technology for 21st century learning, hereby allowing the current middle school to reconvert to an elementary school relieving severe overcrowding at elementary schools, shall North Monterey County Unified School District be authorized to issue \$36,000,000 in bonds at interest rates within the legal limit with no funds for administrator salaries and an appointed Independent Oversight Committee to monitor all bond expenditures?

The North Monterey County Unified School District will use bond funds to reopen Moss Landing Middle School by building a campus with new buildings, classrooms and new infrastructure at Moss Landing Middle School site, 1815 Salinas Road, (Hwy 1 and Springfield Road), Moss Landing CA 95039. The cost of the project includes items such as classrooms, library, multi-purpose room, school administrative offices and other school facilities, infrastructure and utilities, ADA and State/County/Coastal regulations, and necessary furniture and equipment to serve students.

By reopening the Moss Landing Middle School, the District can reconvert the current North Monterey County Middle School back to an elementary school to accommodate enrollment and relieve severe overcrowding at other elementary schools. The current middle school was originally built as an elementary school and has never had the facilities for a proper middle school. By reconverting the current middle school site back to an elementary school campus, the District can accommodate all elementary school students who live in Castroville and avoid busing students to other elementary school sites, thus reducing the overcrowding at the current elementary schools.

Building new buildings and classrooms at the Moss Landing Middle School site will also allow the District to serve all middle school students in age appropriate and modern classrooms. The current middle school is overcrowded, lacks sufficient athletic fields and facilities, and has inadequate technology, science labs and library space.

The essential facilities for the reopened middle school include new classroom buildings, an administration building, a library media center, a multi-purpose room, a serving kitchen, utilities, landscaping, irrigation, pick-up/drop off and parking. A gym, locker rooms, and athletic fields are not expected to be financed from this bond proceeds unless funds are available. Otherwise, the gym, locker rooms, and athletic fields will be constructed using funds from the second bond on the ballot.

Reopening the Moss Landing Middle School site will allow the District to utilize District assets to solve numerous problems. The District will finally have a

comprehensive middle school facility that will better serve our community. Another elementary school in Castroville will serve the over 500 students who are currently bused to elementary schools outside of Castroville because there is no space available at their neighborhood school. The other elementary schools would then be reduced in enrollment to an average of 550 students instead of over 700 students.

If, the reopening of Moss Landing Middle School is not approved, the schools in the North Monterey County Unified School District will continue to be severely overcrowded. Every possible classroom, including the old portables that have outlived their usefulness will continue to be used to house students. Special programs such as preschool, music and interventions may be in jeopardy of continuing due to lack of available classroom space. Many students from Castroville will continue to be bused to schools away from Castroville. Middle School students will continue to attend a school designed as an elementary school and will not have access to an athletic field or modern, 21st century classrooms, science labs and technology. Each school campus is currently at or over capacity and adding classrooms at each site is problematic.

The North Monterey County Unified School District serves more than 4,600 students in grades K-12. The district operates eight schools at seven campuses, Castroville Elementary, Echo Valley Elementary, Elkhorn Elementary, Prunedale Elementary, North Monterey County Middle, Central Bay High and North Monterey County High School. The district also operates preschools at each elementary school as well as the Castro Plaza Family Resource Center, and its North Monterey County Center for Independent Studies (K-12 school) and the adult education school.

The schools in the district are old, with the average age of 61 years. The District has used bond funds approved by voters in 2002 and 2013 and maximized local bond investments with matching state funds, grants, developer fees, and federal stimulus funds. North Monterey County High School has recently opened a new library/media center, renovated the gymnasium and the new athletic track and field facility will open soon. Schools have upgraded access to technology and repaired and replaced heating, plumbing and ventilation systems. Bond funds have also been used to replace fire alarms and other improvements for student safety.

But there is much more that must be completed. The District has experienced a rapid increase in enrollment over the past few years. We will need at least 30 new additional classrooms over the next several years to accommodate students in our District schools. The District has over 50 aging portable classrooms that have exceeded their 20-year lifespan that must be replaced with new permanent buildings, with upgraded infrastructure for technology to improve 21st century learning. The high school's campus needs to replace temporary portable classrooms with a new Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) building to provide science labs. Our schools continue to improve but our facilities are impacted and our resources limited.