

COMPOSITE SAMPLE BALLOT SPECIAL DISTRICT ELECTION NOVEMBER 6, 2007

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Sample Ballot (front)

OFFICIAL SPECIAL ELECTION BALLOT

NOVEMBER 6, 2007

PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: To vote for the candidate of your choice, use a pencil or a pen with blue or black ink and completely darken in the OVAL to the LEFT of the candidate's name. To vote for a person whose name is **not** on the ballot, darken in the OVAL next to and write in the candidate's name on the Write-In line. To vote for or against a measure, darken in the OVAL next to the word "YES" or the word "NO". All distinguishing marks or erasures are forbidden and make the ballot void. If you tear or wrongly mark this ballot, return it and get another.

**VOTE LIKE THIS: ● PLEASE FILL IN THE OVAL COMPLETELY
PLEASE VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT**

<p>MEASURE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS</p>	<p>NORTH AREA USD TRUSTEE AREA 2 Vote for One</p> <p><input type="radio"/> MICHELLE RIVAS Governing Board Member, Rio Linda Union School District</p> <p><input type="radio"/> BRYCE J. VERNON Retired Educator</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-In _____</p>	<p>NORTH AREA USD TRUSTEE AREA 4 Vote for One</p> <p><input type="radio"/> CRAIG DELUZ Governing Board Member, Robla School District</p> <p><input type="radio"/> PATRICK KEMP Governing Board Member, Grant Joint Union High School District</p> <p><input type="radio"/> BOB BASTIAN Governing Board Member, Rio Linda Union School District</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-In _____</p>
<p>SCHOOL</p> <p>B Shall the Del Paso Heights Elementary School District, the Grant Joint Union High School District, the North Sacramento Elementary School District, and the Rio Linda Elementary School District unify into one new district serving students in kindergarten through grade 12, with a seven-member governing board consisting of one member residing in each of seven trustee areas elected by the registered voters of the entire unified school district?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO</p>	<p>NORTH AREA USD TRUSTEE AREA 3 Vote for One</p> <p><input type="radio"/> ALECIA K. EUGENE-CHASTEN Parent/Computer Analyst</p> <p><input type="radio"/> JUANITA D. PARDUN Income Tax Preparer</p> <p><input type="radio"/> PAUL R. GREEN, JR. Mobile Notary Public</p> <p><input type="radio"/> FREDERICK GAYLE Governing Board Member, Grant Joint Union High School District</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-In _____</p>	<p>NORTH AREA USD TRUSTEE AREA 5 Vote for One</p> <p><input type="radio"/> CORTEZ QUINN County Employee/Parent</p> <p><input type="radio"/> HARRY BLOCK Governing Board Member, Del Paso Heights School District</p> <p><input type="radio"/> RICHARD STANDLEY Governing Board Member, Grant Joint Union High School District</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NETTIE SCOGGINS Victim Compensation Analyst</p> <p><input type="radio"/> DORIS HAMILTON Governing Board Member, Del Paso Heights School District</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-In _____</p>
<p>THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED NORTH AREA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT RACE TAKES EFFECT ONLY IF MEASURE B IS APPROVED</p>		
<p>NORTH AREA USD TRUSTEE AREA 1 Vote for One</p> <p><input type="radio"/> LINDA THOMPSON Governing Board Member, Grant Joint Union High School District</p> <p><input type="radio"/> JANIS R. GREEN Governing Board Member, Rio Linda Union School District</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-In _____</p>		

VOTE BOTH SIDES

Sample Ballot (back)

**NORTH AREA USD
TRUSTEE AREA 6
Vote for One**

- ANNETTE EMERY**
Special Education Teacher
- ARTHUR A. JAIME**
Retired Stationary Engineer
- ROGER WESTRUP**
Teacher
- CHRIS CROWE**
Principal
-

Write-In

**NORTH AREA USD
TRUSTEE AREA 7
Vote for One**

- LINDA FOWLER**
Governing Board Member, North
Sacramento Elementary School District
- VELMA STRONG**
Gov. Board Member, Robla School
District
- FRANCISCO R. GARCIA**
Governing Board Member, North
Sacramento School District
- CAROLYN MOORE**
Governing Board Member, Del Paso
Heights School District
-

Write-in

VOTE BOTH SIDES

2

Sample Ballot

OFFICIAL SPECIAL ELECTION BALLOT

NOVEMBER 6, 2007

PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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VOTE LIKE THIS: ● PLEASE FILL IN THE OVAL COMPLETELY

**MEASURE SUBMITTED
TO THE VOTERS**

SCHOOL

D Shall the Ophir Elementary School District annex into the Loomis Union School District?

YES

NO

END OF BALLOT

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**STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR
PROPOSED NORTH AREA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUSTEE AREA 1**

Janis R. Green

Age: 53

Occupation: Legislative Aide

Education and Qualifications: I have lived and worked in this community for over 25 years and I believe that together we can create a new district that is strong and successful. In addition to serving on the Rio Linda School District Board of Trustees, I worked as a volunteer parent while my children were students, and later as a paraeducator. I know my experience will be extremely valuable and beneficial in the governance of this new district. I am proud of the award-winning district we have created together at Rio Linda, and I believe all of our north area students deserve the same excellent educational foundation. Through fiscal and academic accountability, keeping kids first and supporting teachers and employees, we can create a unified district to be proud of.

I pledge to value diversity and build consensus, welcome criticism as an opportunity to improve the educational experience of our students, and seek out and respect the input of students, teachers, parents, employees, business, and the community. For more information about my ideas for our new unified district, visit www.janisgreen.com.

I respectfully request your vote.

**STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR
PROPOSED NORTH AREA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUSTEE AREA 2**

Michelle Rivas

Education and Qualifications: My husband and I have lived and worked in this community for more than 30 years and we are committed to our children, our neighborhoods, and our schools.

As a Rio Linda Union School District board member, I have had the opportunity to participate in keeping our schools family-friendly and encouraging parental involvement. I have supported programs that increase student achievement, keep our district fiscally responsible, and give teachers and employees the tools and training they need to be successful in the classroom. As a parent, I have volunteered many years at my children's elementary and high schools to improve the education of all students.

With the right leadership, I know we can create a high-quality new K-12 district for North Sacramento communities. I want to work with parents and community members to improve our schools and send our students out into the world with the best education and skills possible. My name is Michelle Rivas and I respectfully ask for your vote.

For more information about my ideas for the new unified district, visit www.Rivasforschools.com.

**STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR
PROPOSED NORTH AREA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUSTEE AREA 3**

Alecia K. Eugene-Chasten

Occupation: Parent/State Controller Employee/Businesswoman

Education and Qualifications: I have lived in the North Highlands area for over 40 years, raising three children with my husband. I believe education is the most important gift we can give our young people. I am passionate about ensuring that all school age students receive a valuable educational experience that provides a strong foundation and meaningful opportunities for their future.

My experience and leadership skills include serving as PTA President, Vice-President, a Board Director with our North Highlands Recreation and Park District, and as a member of School Site Councils at the elementary and high school levels. I have served on the Budget and Finance and Community Relations Committee with the park district. I have worked on complex issues and implemented effective solutions to benefit our community. When elected, my priorities will be to support our teachers, employees, and administrators with more tools and opportunities, create more parent involvement opportunities, and demand accountability, administrative cost savings and financial stability.

Please join the teacher associations in all four school districts and Mr. James Shelby, Citrus Heights Councilmember and Greater Sacramento Urban League in supporting my candidacy for the New School Board Trustee. For more information on bringing pride back to our community, visit Aleciaeugenechasten.com

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**STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR
PROPOSED NORTH AREA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUSTEE AREA 4**

Craig DeLuz

Age: 38

Occupation: Business Owner/Robla School Board President

Education and Qualifications: As a high school teacher, local businessman, the President of the Robla Elementary School Board, education & budget consultant in the State Legislature, - and most importantly, a parent of two students attending school in the proposed district - I am committed to ensuring that all of our children have every opportunity to succeed.

During my time at Robla, two of our five schools have been honored as California Distinguished Schools, despite students facing many of the same challenges as those in other north area districts. This shows that with teachers, parents and the District focused on student excellence, success will follow. If success can happen for the students in Robla, we can make it happen for students all over the North Area.

We can make it happen by electing new leadership focused on fiscal transparency, community collaboration, and a commitment to empowering all students to achieve. If elected, I pledge to bring these values to the new board.

Our children deserve the best education possible. As parents, we should demand it. As voters, we can to make it a reality - today!

Please consider voting for Craig DeLuz for school board.

For more information visit: www.craigdeluz.com or call 916-468-0594.

**STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR
PROPOSED NORTH AREA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUSTEE AREA 4**

Bob Bastian

Occupation: Rio Linda School Board President/Retired Educator/Parent

Education and Qualifications: I am committed to our north area communities and schools. I am the current RLUSD Board President, a County Park Commissioner, Chamber of Commerce and Historical Society member.

After graduating from Grant, I worked in school maintenance while getting my teaching credential at CSUS. I learned a lot about keeping our schools running well and a respect for all employees. Involvement of parents, employees and community members is essential in providing excellent educational programs for our children.

I taught preschool through high school, special education and school counseling at Del Paso Junior High, Lincoln High and many Rio Linda District elementary schools. Since retiring, I have served on the Rio Linda School Board and am proud of our award-winning academic programs, family-friendly atmosphere and financial responsibility. I will strive to bring those values to the new district.

As a life-long citizen of the area, parent, community volunteer, educator and experienced school board member, I believe I bring the knowledge and understanding of our communities and educational programs that will be critically needed to successfully guide the new district.

The four teachers associations support my candidacy to help develop an outstanding district. I respectfully ask for your vote. Visit Bastianforkids.com.

**STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR
PROPOSED NORTH AREA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUSTEE AREA 5**

Doris Hamilton

Occupation: Educator, Activist, Leader

Education and Qualifications: Masters Degree in Social Work, Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work, and Corrections. Lifetime credentials in Teaching and Counseling.

My vision will be to prepare these students with the tool's to succeed. They will make it through by the policies and implementation of goals set by this community. Funding will go into direct expenditures to the classrooms, teacher's professional growth, upward mobility for Classified personnel and help student's master education/technology skills. As your chosen representative, this is not just an election year; this is a new community agenda. All students will receive more than the basic education. I will reduce high administrative costs, hire an experienced Superintendent, and retain highly qualified staff at all levels.

I have kept my promises to the Del Paso Heights community. I am committed to stand in the gap for all students. Your research will show that when you vote Doris Hamilton, November 6, 2007, you have chosen a serious representative. I urge you to vote for change. You will not be alone in this education platform. This is the direction for the right vote. Let's do this together in the best interest of our students.

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR
PROPOSED NORTH AREA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUSTEE AREA 6

Annette Emery

Occupation: School Board Member

Education and Qualifications: As a parent, community volunteer, teacher and a school board member, I have the background and the optimism needed to create a 21st century educational experience for the students of our new unified school district.

My passion is in helping special needs students. In addition to working as a special education teacher, my husband and I are also foster parents. I have often witnessed the empowering effects of education and believe that all children should have the opportunity to achieve their fullest potential.

We need to pass Measure B this November so that we can dramatically increase funding for classroom education by reducing the unnecessary administrative costs associated with running four individual school districts.

As a school board member, I have a proven record of overseeing improved academic achievement, balancing district budgets and supporting programs that help students and families connect to our schools.

A vote for Annette Emery is a vote for experienced and common sense leadership on our new school board. That is why parents and community leaders have endorsed me. Thank you for considering me for your vote.

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR
PROPOSED NORTH AREA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUSTEE AREA 6

Roger Westrup

Occupation: School Board Member

Education and Qualifications: What's best for the kids? That's what every school board member should ask before resolving any issue.

Decisions must be student-centered, classroom-focused and based on quality programs. I will ask tough questions to improve student performance and educational opportunities. It's time to focus on ensuring academic success and career preparation.

As a teacher, I have an understanding of what makes a classroom work. As a parent, I know how school board decisions impact students—my own children attend area schools. As a volunteer youth leader, I have learned what works to help young people achieve success.

As a school board member, an Army officer and a government manager—I have led people, managed projects, developed budgets, implemented technology, improved classroom instruction, solved problems and made tough policy decisions. I have the skills and experience needed to successfully manage our new district and I have a record of proven leadership. Please join all four teachers associations and others in supporting me in this election for a new K-12 school district. I encourage you to read more about me at www.smartvoter.org.

Let me hear your ideas. Contact me at 922-4984 or ForNorthSackKids@aol.com. Thank you for your vote!

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR
PROPOSED NORTH AREA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUSTEE AREA 6

Chris Crowe

Age: 56

Occupation: Principal

Education and Qualifications: I am Chris Crowe and I am running for Trustee, Area 6, Re-Organized Proposed North Area Unified School District. I am 56 years old and recently retired from teaching in the Grant High School District. I am currently the principal of Valley Christian Academy in Roseville, California. I have 30 years experience in education as both a classroom teacher and as an administrator. I have a Masters Degree from National University in Education Administration and am currently working on a Doctorate in Education with the University of Phoenix.

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STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR
PROPOSED NORTH AREA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUSTEE AREA 7

Linda Fowler

Occupation: Business Owner/Retired Senior Management Auditor/School Board Member

Education and Qualifications: J.D. (Law) / Business Administration
A respected community member, I have a record of high quality leadership and putting children first. A well managed district and successful programs don't just happen: it takes leadership, well-reasoned decisions, dedicated staff, involved parents and an active community. I have a strong business, financial and legal background and understand the challenges facing education, especially as they impact our children.

I have diligently and aggressively worked to keep the only instrumental music program for elementary students in Sacramento County, sound fiscal policies and avoidance of deficit spending, safe schools and continual upgrades for technology and remodeling our schools.

We need a unified K-12 district, strong curriculum and only one superintendent and governing board. I urge you to vote yes on Measure B to dissolve the Grant District. The road we take is critical for the future of our children and our community. Good leadership is the heart of academic excellence and all children deserve an opportunity to learn and achieve their fullest potential. Find out more about my ideas for our new district: visit LindaFowler.com. Children are our future and must be prepared to lead in the future.

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR
PROPOSED NORTH AREA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUSTEE AREA 7

Velma Strong

Age: 58

Occupation: Educator/Gov. School Board Member

Education and Qualifications: In my 26 years of experience working with children in public schools, and my 10 years experience as a school board member, I've seen the extraordinary good that can come from a vibrant, enriching and well-managed education. I've also seen the harm that a poorly governed school district can have on a child's learning experience.

As your Board Member, I promise to be accessible, to listen and treat everyone with dignity and respect, embrace diversity and approach decisions with an open mind.

We have an obligation to provide our students with the necessary skills for life. We must make sure policies and programs are in place for graduating students that provide them with a diploma and also a Certificate of completion in a Career Path. All students should be given the skills to be self-supporting, ready for the work force or college.

I am the only candidate who has had the good fortune of working in education for most of my life, and as your school board representative I will use my expertise and unique experience to fight tirelessly for our children. It's time we give our kids the opportunities they deserve. It's time for a change.

MEASURE B

PROPOSAL TO CREATE THE NORTH AREA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Shall the Del Paso Heights Elementary School District, the Grant Joint Union High School District, the North Sacramento Elementary School District, and the Rio Linda Elementary School District unify into one new district serving students in kindergarten through grade 12, with a seven-member governing board consisting of one member residing in each of seven trustee areas elected by the registered voters of the entire unified school district?

YES _____

NO _____

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY SACRAMENTO COUNTY COUNSEL

Measure B proposes the creation of a new K-12 school district through the unification of four existing school districts: the Del Paso Heights Elementary School District (grades K-6), the North Sacramento Elementary School District (K-7), the Rio Linda Union School District (K-8), and the Grant Joint Union High School District (7-12). The boundaries of the new school district would be identical to the boundaries of the existing Grant school district. The Del Paso Heights, North Sacramento, and Rio Linda school district currently lie within the boundaries of, and send their secondary school students to schools in, the Grant school district. The Elverta Joint Elementary School District (K-8) and the Robla Elementary School District (K-6), which also lie within the boundaries of, and send their secondary school students to schools in, the Grant school district are not included within the school district unification proposed by Measure B. They would remain independent elementary school districts and would send their students to secondary schools that would be part of the new unified school district. If Measure B is passed by the voters, the unification would be effective for all purposes on July 1, 2008.

The school district unification proposed by Measure B would include all the property, obligations, and bonded indebtedness of the existing four districts so that all of such property, obligations, and bonded indebtedness of each existing district would become the property, obligations, and bonded indebtedness of the new unified school district. The new unified district would also assume the rights and responsibilities of all the school districts included within the unification proposal, including charter schools and community day schools.

Education Code Section 35555 provides that the proposed unification will not impact the classification of certificated employees already employed by any affected school district. Such employees will have the same status with respect to their classification by their employing school district after the unification as they had prior to it. Education Code Section 35556 provides that the unification will not affect the rights of persons employed in positions not requiring certification qualifications and, therefore, these employees will retain the same salary, leaves, and other benefits that they would have had if the unification did not occur.

The proposed new unified school district will be governed by a seven member governing board whose members will be elected at the same time as the election on the unification of the school districts. One governing board member for the proposed new district will be elected from each of seven trustee areas, all candidates for each trustee area must reside in that trustee area, and candidates will be voted on by the registered voters of the entire proposed unified school district. The initial terms of the trustees of the proposed new unified district shall be four years, unless the governing board consolidates the election of governing board members with the statewide general election in which case the initial terms of the trustees will be three years. Trustees elected at this next governing board election shall have either two-year (even-numbered trustee areas) or four-year (odd-numbered trustee areas) terms. Thereafter, all governing board members will have four-year terms.

Passage of Measure B requires approval by a majority of the voters voting thereon.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE B

Our area's schools are an amalgamation of 6 distinct school districts (5 elementary districts and a high school district). Established 75 years ago when the north Sacramento area was mostly rural, today these districts have overlapping boundaries, duplicate administrations and needless bureaucracy.

Measure B will combine 4 of the districts (Rio Linda Union, North Sacramento, Del Paso Heights and the Grant High School District) into one, new unified school district. Measure B is supported by teachers, both Democratic and Republican elected officials, business and religious leaders and each individual school district. The new district will make local schools better by eliminating bureaucracy and needless administration and redirecting resources into the classroom.

Instead of funding four separate school systems with four separate administrations, taxpayers will see their tax dollars better utilized in improved programs and opportunities for children. Because of the overlapping administrations, our local schools do not get their fair share of state educational funding. Passage of Measure B will qualify our local schools for an additional \$15 million in yearly state funding. This money will not be available to our schools if Measure B fails.

Classrooms teachers support Measure B because more resources will be spent in the classroom. Students will have a single, coordinated curriculum from preschool through 12th grade. Parents are supportive because the best academic programs from each school will be maintained and expanded to benefit all students throughout the new district. Students will be better prepared for college and careers.

Today, four different district administrations, four superintendents, 20 school board members and dozens of school administrators manage our local schools. Measure B will create one, streamlined administration, one new superintendent and a single seven member elected school board. This will improve fiscal oversight and eliminate duplicative functions. With less money spent on administration, more money will go to the classroom to benefit students.

Measure B will not raise tax rates. A single unified school district will save taxpayer money.

Measure B will not close schools. No elementary, middle school or high school will be closed.

Measure B will not force students to attend a school outside their community or change where they go to school today. Students will continue to attend their local schools in their own neighborhoods.

Measure B will not result in teacher layoffs. In fact, Measure B will help attract and retain quality teachers.

Please join the teachers, parents and community leaders who support Measure B. Help us improve our local schools. Vote YES on Measure B.

Barbara Donovan, Rio Linda Teacher of the Year
Bill Murchison, Superintendent (Retired) Rio Linda Union School District

Darrell Steinberg, State Senator

John McGinness, Sheriff, Sacramento County

Grantland Johnson, Former Sacramento County Supervisor

**NO ARGUMENT AGAINST
MEASURE B WAS SUBMITTED**

Statement of Official Information and Statistics Relating to the Proposed Establishment of a New North Area K-12 School District Through the Unification of the Del Paso Heights Elementary School District, the Grant Joint Union High School District, the North Sacramento Elementary School District, and the Rio Linda Union Elementary School District, and the Election of Governing Board Members of the New K-12 School District if it is Approved

June 19, 2007

Description of Unification Proposal

The proposal is to create a new North Area K-12 school district through the unification of four existing school districts: the Del Paso Heights Elementary School District (grades K-6), the Grant Joint Union High School District (7-12), the North Sacramento Elementary School District (K-7), and the Rio Linda Union School District (K-8). (The governing board of the new district would determine its name.) The boundaries of the new school district would be identical to the current boundaries of the Grant school district. The Del Paso Heights, North Sacramento, and Rio Linda school districts lie within the boundaries of, and currently send their secondary students to schools in, the Grant school district. No students would be required to change schools as a result of the proposed unification. The proposed unification would include all of the property, obligations, and bonded indebtedness of the existing four districts; that is, all of the property, obligations, and bonded indebtedness of each district would become the property, obligations, and bonded indebtedness of the new district. The new district would assume the rights and responsibilities of all school districts in the unification, including charter schools and community day schools.

The Elverta Joint Elementary School District (K-8) and the Robla Elementary School District (K-6), which also lie within the boundaries of, and currently send their secondary students to schools in, the Grant school district, would be excluded (by their choice) from the unification. They would remain independent elementary school districts, and would send their 9-12 (Elverta) or 7-12 (Robla) students to the same secondary schools they attend now, but those schools would be part of the new unified school district instead of the existing Grant Joint Union High School District.

Rationale

The governing boards of the four districts believe that creating a unified school district would (a) provide for greater educational opportunities to all of their students through seamless articulation and consolidation of programs and resources, (b) be sound fiscal and educational policy, and (c) address the community and academic needs of all the students and residents in the

north area of Sacramento County. The proposed unified school district will receive more state funding than the total amount received separately by the four districts (see below).

Background

This proposal was initiated in June 2006 by the submission to the Sacramento County Office of Education of resolutions by the governing boards of the four participating districts. In August 2006, the Sacramento County Board of Education, acting as the Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee), held public hearings on the proposal in Del Paso Heights, North Sacramento, and Rio Linda. In December 2006, the County Committee added two provisions to the proposal (that the governing board would have seven members, and that the election for the first governing board would be held at the same time as the election on the reorganization of the school districts) and voted unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education (SBE) approve the proposal. In addition, the County Committee voted to recommend to the SBE that the governing board of the new district be elected from trustee areas (by either all registered voters in the district or the registered voters within each trustee area) that reflect communities of interest.

In March 2007, the SBE held a public hearing on the proposal after which it approved the proposal, allowing it to go to the voters. The SBE also approved the requested exclusion from the unification of the Elverta and Robla school districts, and the County Committee's recommendations that the governing board have seven members, elected from trustee areas, and that the election for the first governing board be held at the same time as the election on the reorganization of the school districts. The SBE specified that the governing board members be elected by the voters of the entire school district, and that the territory in which the election regarding the proposed unification would be held would be the entire Grant Joint Union High School District. The unification proposal will pass if a majority of all the votes cast are in favor of the proposal. If passed by the voters, the unification would be effective for all purposes on July 1, 2008.

**MEASURE B STATEMENT
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

**MEASURE B STATEMENT
CONTINUED**

Governing Board Members

Governing board members of the proposed new unified school district are being elected at the same time as the election on the reorganization of the school districts. One governing board member for the proposed new district will be elected from each of seven trustee areas, all candidates for each trustee area must reside in that trustee area, and candidates will be voted on by the registered voters of the entire proposed unified school district. The attached map shows the boundaries of the trustee areas.

Pending State Board of Education approval at its July 11-12 meeting, the initial terms of the trustees shall be four years, unless the governing board consolidates the election of governing board members with the statewide general election, in which case the initial terms of the trustees shall be three years. Trustees elected at the next governing board member election shall have two-year (even-numbered trustee areas) or four-year (odd-numbered trustee areas) terms. Thereafter, all governing board members will have four-year terms. (If the SBE does not approve this provision, then the initial terms of the governing board members elected from the even-numbered trustee areas will end on December 7, 2008, and the initial terms of the governing board members elected from the odd-numbered trustee areas will end on December 3, 2010.)

Rights of Employees

If the new district is formed, employees of the existing four districts will become employees of the new district. *Education Code* §35555 provides that the unification shall not affect the classification of certificated employees already employed by any school district affected. Such employees shall have the same status with respect to their classification by the district, including time served as probationary employees of the district, after the unification as they had prior to it. *Education Code* §35556 provides that the unification shall not affect the rights of persons employed in positions not requiring certification qualifications to retain the salary, leaves, and other benefits that they would have had if the unification had not occurred.

Enrollment and Rate of Growth

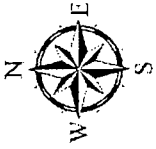
In 2006-07, the combined enrollment of the four participating districts was 30,713. This number has been very stable since 2001-02, when combined enrollment was 30,553. It is expected, therefore, that if the new district were approved, it would have between 30,000 and 31,000 students its first year of operation (2008-09), and little change in enrollment would be expected over the next few years.

Financial Information

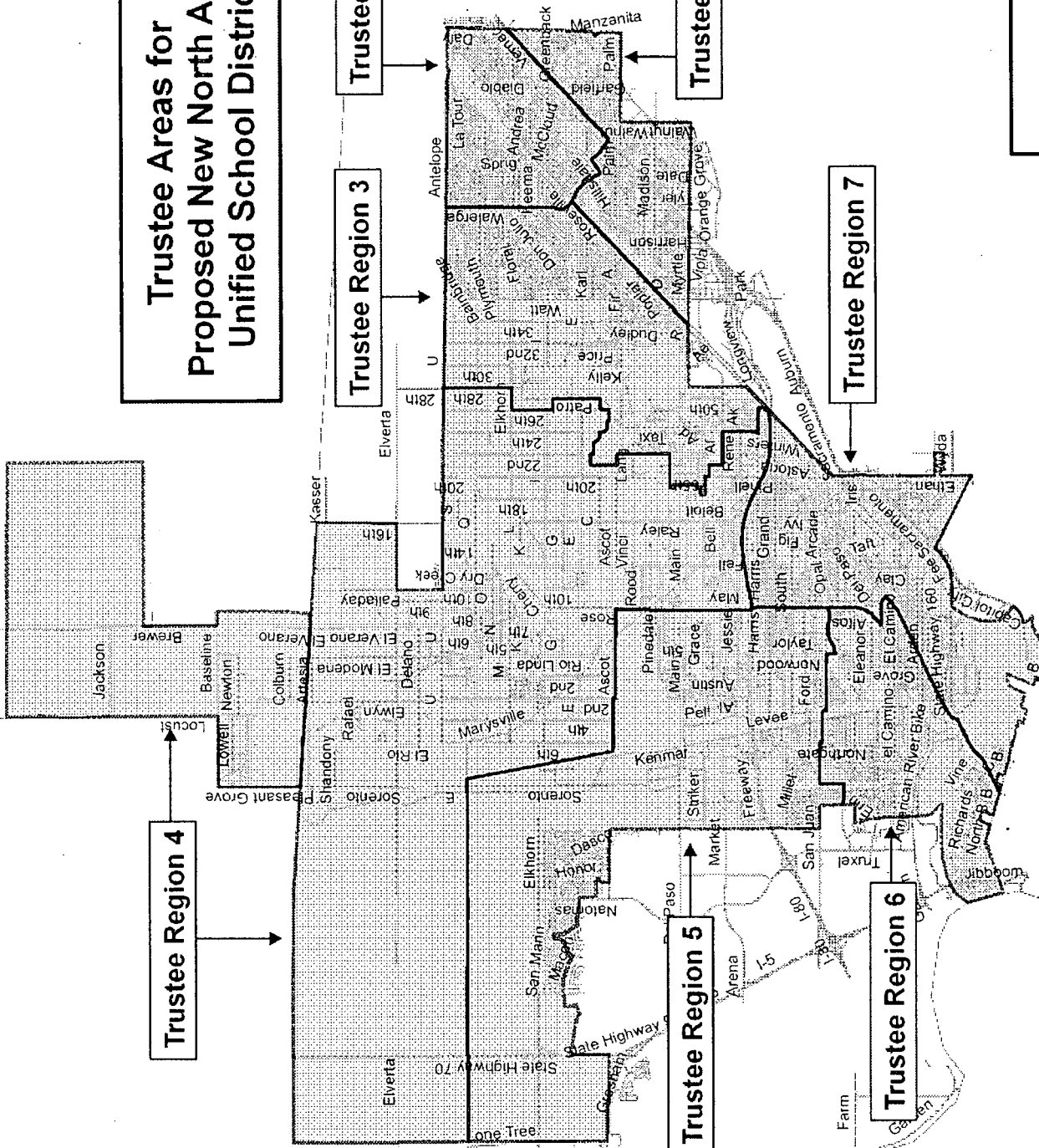
Based on 2006-07 data, the revenue limit per pupil for the proposed unified school district is estimated to be \$6,262. (The revenue limit per pupil is the general purpose money a district receives from the state for each student. This amount is multiplied by the district's average daily attendance to get the total revenue limit funding for the district. If the proposed district is approved, the California Department of Education will calculate the actual revenue limit.) This represents about an 8 percent increase in the revenue limit per pupil for the four separate districts combined, and an increase of approximately \$12,500,000 in total revenue funding annually. Because Proposition 98 dictates the total state support for schools, this increase will not increase the total amount the state pays for education. In the future, state support for the proposed new district is expected to continue at levels comparable to those provided to unified school districts of similar size and characteristics.

The districts that will be unified currently receive additional state funding for gifted and talented pupils, home-to-school transportation, instructional materials, staff development, school improvement program, and other miscellaneous programs. Unification would not impact continued eligibility for the current funding levels; the effect of unification on state categorical programs and entitlements is essentially revenue neutral because the funding follows the students.

Because no students will be displaced or transferred to different schools as a result of the proposed unification, no additional facilities should be required as a consequence of the unification and, therefore, there should be no change in the costs of housing the existing student population.



**Trustee Areas for
Proposed New North Area
Unified School District**



Scott Dowell
Sacramento County Office of Education
July 2, 2007

MEASURE D

PROPOSAL FOR THE ANNEXATION OF THE OPHIR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT TO THE LOOMIS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Shall the Ophir Elementary School District annex into the Loomis Union School District?

YES ____ **NO** ____

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY PLACER COUNTY COUNSEL

The Boards of Trustees of both the Ophir Elementary School District (hereinafter Ophir District) and the Loomis Union Elementary School District (hereinafter Loomis District) are proposing to annex and transfer the Ophir District into the Loomis District.

The Boards of Trustees have proposed this action because they have determined that because of its small size, the Ophir District has difficulty providing effective service in the areas of curriculum, instruction and business management. The Superintendents of both Districts assert that the merger would result in a higher level of service to the students who attend Ophir District schools. In addition, annexation of the districts would result in cost savings due to economies of scale and elimination of duplicate positions and services.

In October 2005 the estimated student enrollment in the Loomis District was 2100. The Ophir District was estimated to be 191. If approved by the voters, the resulting District would have a student population of approximately 2,291. All personal and real property owned by the Ophir District would become the property of the Loomis District. All existing bonded indebtedness of the Loomis District will remain as bonded debt only on property within the original Loomis District. This existing bonded indebtedness would not be

extended to the property owned within the annexed Ophir District.

A "YES" vote is a vote in favor of the annexation and transfer of the Ophir Elementary School District to the Loomis Union Elementary School District.

A "NO" vote is a vote against the annexation and transfer of the Ophir Elementary School District to the Loomis Union Elementary School District.

Registered voters residing in both districts may vote on Measure D. To pass, Measure D must receive approval by the majority of all votes cast by the voters voting upon the measure.

Anthony J. La Bouff
County Counsel

By: Sabrina M. Thompson
Deputy County Counsel

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE D

Arguments For

By merging the Ophir Elementary School District with the Loomis Union School District, children from the two districts will be brought together into one larger, K-8 school district of approximately 2400 students. A transition plan has been developed with input from parents and staff that will provide guidelines and procedures for a smooth merger and ensures that Ophir School will hold onto its unique and distinct identity.

Educational Benefits

Through the merger, the district will be able to provide a higher level of service to the students. The new district will have approximately 2400 students. A district of that size can provide a broader spectrum of academic, athletic and growth opportunities, as well as a higher level of service in curriculum, instruction and business management than a smaller district. Ophir is currently less than 200 students in size, which severely limits its ability to deliver comprehensive services to students.

Were the Districts to merge, all students in the resulting larger district would receive the benefits of belonging to a larger district. Both districts are high performing districts, so the addition of students from Ophir will not hamper the educational services of Loomis, but will, instead, enhance them. The common curriculum provided by one school district will allow for an easier transition to high school for all students.

Economic Benefits

The merger will provide additional financial resources to the resulting district, thus providing the best long-term

education for children without an increase in taxes. In addition, the merger will provide economies of scale, with both districts being able to utilize a common district leadership staff, as opposed to having two separate district administrative staffs. Further, the merger will reduce the burden on county and state economies, and will enhance opportunities for facilities growth and modernization.

The merger will not impact property taxes based on previously approved school bonds.

Community Benefits

The communities of Loomis and Ophir also share a substantial community identity. The students come from the larger Loomis Basin area, and the geography, population, weather and lifestyle are substantially the same. The majority of students of both districts attend the same high school, participate in the same activities, and attend the same local events. Ophir school will remain open, and the Ophir community will be represented on the Loomis Board of Trustees.

Please join us in approving the merger of the Loomis Union School District and the Ophir Elementary School District into a district that is more efficient and better able to serve the students of our community.

James L. Foster Jr., President, Loomis Union School District Board

John C. Chappell, President, Ophir Elementary School Board

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE D

ISSUE No. 1

In re allegations of input/Ophir community and school staff

- not Ophir 'community' decision,
- actually decision proscribed by both school boards and by both superintendents, absent even minimal community support,
- reality is, notwithstanding last hearing's strong protest by Ophir community, commission's decisions was to approve the merger.

ISSUE No. 2

Level of Service - Ophir students at low level? In what ways?

Enlarged student classes/larger student body often leads to larger class sizes and thus reduces the opportunity for closer teacher-to-student supervision. Smaller class sizes seem to be desired goal of the teaching community.

ISSUE No. 3

Performance Levels/if the proponents are now admitting that both districts - - which includes Ophir - - "are high performing districts", what other 'higher' educational benefits are to be obtained? None proffered at the hearings.

ISSUE No. 4

"Economic benefits"/ are alleged and offered ... but, hearings did not offer any itemizations to significantly support such suppositions.

Further, teaching staff - - very heart and core of education programs - - will apparently not be enhanced by this proposed merger .. perhaps for higher level managers.

ISSUE No. 5

Property taxes/ of today may not be impacted currently ... future, however is unpredictable, especially with new administrative leadership with accompanying philosophic ideas at the helm of new ship.

ISSUE No. 6

Protestations of a substantial communal identity/ are easier said than to be actually operational. It certainly appears, from the proponent's point of view, that Loomis intends to exercise principal directional views.

Your "no" vote is respectfully invited.

William Fawx, Resident of Interest

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE D

ISSUE No. 1

Why did not the proponents of the above referenced matter fail to obtain a prior perspective of the two (2) principal property owners, whose respective properties provide a contiguous land-bridge linking Loomis-Ophir School Districts (an Ed. Code requirement),. These owners are: Cole Family and Fawx family... located on State Route Hwy 193 and the intersection of the Gold Hill Road, Placer County, CA.

Similarly, proponents of this measure have failed to make an affirmative response to this particular issue and verbal questioning queried by the undersigned in attendance at each of three (3) different public hearings on this matter (i.e. Newcastle/Lincoln/Loomis).

ISSUE No. 2

Noted, a conspicuous absence of any substantial verbal or written support for this transfer and linkage thereto by the faculty (certified) and administrative (classified) support staff at Ophir School.

And collaterally, also a similar absence of support by a substantial number of parents and community members of the Ophir School and its surrounding community.

On the contrary, information has been received from representatives of the above two (2) groups indicating firm negative responses to this proposed merger program.

And no wonder, reference Petition to Annex, Art. IX-A:

- certificated and classified employees to be governed by the Loomis Teachers Association,
- employment of non-certificated , non-classified employees to be governed by Loomis policies,
- employees of Ophir will not retain any rights under their Ophir employment status,
- thus above representations would appear to be

at variance with the NEGATIVE DECLARATION of 05-10-07, item #8, which states that this "proposed action is strictly an administrative transfer of territorial area".

ISSUE No. 3

As noted by the undersigned, Loomis representatives lauded their classroom programs ... clearly an implication that Ophir's was substandard.

An objective evaluation of Ophir's teaching programs, methods of presentations of the material, and the talent and abilities of the faculty staff would substantially refute the above implication.

ISSUE No. 4

Fiscal/Financial matters are minimally portrayed by the proponents ... can you be sure of this!

- does the enlarged district enable the new Superintendent - - and immediate staff - - to seek upward salary emoluments,
- if Ophir's community desires a charter school status, existing laws enable it to do so,
- if Ophir's school enrollment is actually in 'significant' decline, why not seek a geographically closer merger ally.

CONCLUSION and REQUEST

Therefore, in view of the observations the undersigned respectfully requests your negative vote on this matter

- proponents failed to inform all relevant persons,
- " " " significantly justify their proposal,
- absence of a significant counter input by Ophir staff can result in "wonder why not".

Emma Fawx, Homemaker
William Fawx, Retired State Employee

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE D

In response to the argument against Measure D, the following is offered:

- The Loomis School Board unanimously supports the merger with Ophir.
- The Education Code allows for a merger without input from the property owners of the Subject Territory so long as the merger is put to a vote. Input of district employees, staff and community members is also measured through a vote.
- The CEQA Negative Declaration's notation that the "proposed action is strictly an administrative transfer" relates only to potential environmental effects of a territory transfer (or lack thereof, as is the case here).
- Neither District has suggested that Ophir Elementary School District's educational program is substandard. In fact, as the petition notes, both districts are outstanding.
- The financial implications related to the merger are those which are covered by the regulations of the California State Board of Education. If the merger takes place, the new district will bargain collectively with the employee unions as required by law regarding all terms and conditions of employment.

- While another school district has sought to merge with Ophir, such a merger would not assist Ophir in reaching adequate enrollment. The benefits of merging with Loomis far outweigh the benefits of merging with any other, "geographically close merger ally."
- Finally, the merger was approved after all procedural and notice requirements were met. Public hearings were held in both affected districts.
- The Ophir School Board has approved of and supports the petition and the merger.

Jack R. Day, Loomis Union School District School Board Member
Mike Edwards, Loomis Union School District School Board Member
Jenine Windeshausen, Placer County Treasurer-Tax Collector
Claudine Matulich, Ophir Elementary School District Board Member
Gabriela Michanie, Ophir Elementary School District Board Clerk

15

PETITION

BEFORE THE PLACER COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

JOINT PETITION TO ANNEX THE OPHIR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT TO THE LOOMIS UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

LOOMIS UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND OPHIR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT, Petitioners.

I. INTRODUCTION

This joint petition is filed to annex the Ophir Elementary School District to the Loomis Union Elementary School District. The Governing Boards of each affected School District support this petition.

If this petition is approved, Loomis Union Elementary School District will become the successor District. Ophir Elementary School District will no longer exist as a separate entity, and Ophir Elementary School will become part of Loomis Union Elementary School District.

For purposes of this petition, the term "merger" is synonymous with "annexation."

II. DESIGNATION OF CHIEF PETITIONERS

Pursuant to Education Code Section 35701, the undersigned petitioners appoint the following chief petitioners for the purpose of receiving any notices required by law. Such notices should be sent to:

PAUL JOHNSON, Superintendent
Loomis Union Elementary School District
3290 Humphrey Road
Loomis, CA 95650
(916) 652-1800

ROBERT REYNOLDS, Superintendent
Ophir Elementary School District
1373 Lozanos Road
Newcastle, CA 95658
(530) 885-3495

III. REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF TERRITORY

Petitioners request that the Ophir Elementary School District (hereinafter "Ophir") be merged with the Loomis Union Elementary School District (hereinafter "Loomis") for the following reasons:

- 1. Because of its small size, Ophir has difficulty providing effective service in the areas of curriculum, instruction and business management. The merger would result in a higher level of service to the students which currently attend Ophir schools.

- 2. Having two separate school Districts results in the duplication of positions and services. Thus, the merger of the Ophir and Loomis would be more efficient than having the Districts remain as separate entities. The merger of the two Districts would result in future savings due to economies of scale.

IV. THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT SHOULD APPROVE AND TRANSMIT THIS PETITION

Education Code Section 35704 provides that the County Superintendent shall transmit a petition simultaneously to the County Committee on School District Organization ("County Committee") and to the State Board of Education within thirty (30) days after a petition is filed, if the County Superintendent finds that the petition is sufficient and is signed as required by law.

This Petition has been initiated and signed by a majority of the members of the governing boards of each of the Districts affected by this proposed reorganization (Education Code Section 35700(d)) (See Resolutions supporting Petition, Attachments A and B). Therefore, this Petition is sufficient and should be transmitted to the County Committee and the State Board of Education.

V. THE COUNTY COMMITTEE SHOULD APPROVE THIS PETITION

This is a petition to transfer territory pursuant to Education Code Section 35710, which provides that the County Committee is authorized to approve a petition to transfer territory if it finds that the conditions enumerated in Section 35753 (a) of the Education Code are substantially met. As shown below, the County Committee is authorized to approve this petition because the conditions have been substantially met.

A. The Required Criteria (Section 35753 (a))

1. The Resulting District Will Be Adequate in Terms of Number of Pupils Enrolled.

The California Code of Regulations section 18573(a)(1)(A) states that any proposed elementary school district must have a projected enrollment of 901 on the effective date of the reorganization in order to be adequate. Enrollment counts prepared in October 2005 list the student population at Loomis and Ophir at about two thousand one hundred (2,100) and one hundred ninety one (191), respectively (See Attachments C and D). Thus, when the merger becomes effective, the reorganized school District will easily exceed the 901 student requirement.

MEASURE D PETITION
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**MEASURE D
PETITION CONTINUED**

2. After Merger, The District Will Be Organized on the Basis of Substantial Community Identity.

Currently, Loomis and Ophir have substantially similar community identities. Ophir and Loomis have almost identical topography, weather and rural life styles. In addition, students in each District share common resources, including, but not limited to, Lions Club, churches, athletic organizations, cheerleading, 4-H, and Boy and Girl Scouts of America.

The two Districts have already begun to establish a common identity. For example, Ophir's students currently attend dances at Loomis' schools. Also, Loomis provides the food services to Ophir at the present time.

Therefore, given all of the above, the reorganized District would have and retain substantial community identity.

3. The Proposal Will Result in an Equitable Division of Property and Facilities of the Original Districts.

This criteria is not technically applicable here given that the merger will not result in a *division* of property.

Nevertheless, all real property owned by the current Districts, will become the real property of the reorganized Loomis District. Loomis is comprised of five operating school sites, plus its District Office, and Ophir is comprised of one operating school site. There is currently no other real property owned by either District.

Each District currently owns numerous items of personal property, including various items of furniture, equipment and vehicles. These items will become the property of Loomis after merger.

4. The Merger of Ophir Elementary School District Will Not Promote Racial or Ethnic Discrimination or Segregation.¹

The current racial and ethnic make-up of Loomis Union Elementary School District and Ophir Elementary School District is quite similar. The California Department of Education's CBEDS prepared in October 2005 provides the basis for the following percentage breakdown of ethnicity in each District (See Attachments C and D):²

<u>Ethnicity</u>	<u>Loomis</u>	<u>Ophir</u>
Caucasian	%86.5	%88.0
Hispanic	04.0	10.4
Asian	01.3	00.5
African-American	00.4	00.0
Filipino	00.7	00.0
American Indian/Alaska	01.6	00.5
Pacific Islander	00.2	00.0
Multiple/No Response	05.3	00.5
% Non-Caucasian	13.5	12.0
% Caucasian	86.5	88.0

Prior to the merger, the Districts have comparable ethnic make-up, and the merger itself will not promote racial discrimination.

5. The Proposed Merger Will Not Result in Any Substantial Increase in Costs to the State.

No additional State costs are anticipated due to the proposed merger. The Districts currently have similar revenue limits. Indeed, the proposed merger of the Loomis and Ophir Districts should result in savings to the State. The merger of the Ophir District may eliminate some aspects of State costs for programs currently operating in both Districts.

6. The Proposed Merger Will Not Significantly Disrupt the Educational Programs in the Districts Affected by the Proposed Merger and Will Promote Sound Educational Performance in the Remaining District.

The California Department of Education reports the following data on the academic achievement of the two Districts:

	<u>Loomis</u>	<u>Ophir</u>
2005 API scores:	880	849
2006 AYP goal met:		
Language Arts	Yes	Yes
Mathematics	Yes	Yes

California Standards Tests:
Percentage of students proficient or advanced:

Ophir-

<u>Grades</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	
English	71	31	63	41	82	75	75	
Math	79	92	95	54	79	69	92	

Loomis-

<u>Grades</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	
English	67	63	77	72	72	77	73	
Math	81	84	79	75	79	80	58	

**MEASURE D PETITION
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

¹ It is hard to imagine a merger ever promoting racial or ethnic discrimination or segregation. This criterion appears designed to prevent a reorganization whereby a relatively homogenous portion of a school district splits off from an existing district.

² Attachments C and D include school information forms charting the ethnic makeup of each school in the Loomis Union Elementary School District and Ophir Elementary School Districts.

**MEASURE D
PETITION CONTINUED**

This information indicates that both Ophir and Loomis provide high quality education for their students. Thus, the merger of these two high quality Districts would continue to support sound educational performance.

In addition, given that Ophir and Loomis use the same or similar educational programs, the merger will not be significantly disruptive. Although the selected curriculum of the Districts does not match identically, both Districts have adopted Differentiated Instruction as their service delivery model. It is also of note that, in some subjects, the Districts use the same text books.

7. The Proposed Merger Will Not Result in a Significant Increase in School Housing Costs.

All students in both the Loomis and Ophir Districts are adequately housed in a combination of permanent and portable classrooms. Loomis opened a new school site, the H. Clarke Powers Elementary School, in August, 2000. Loomis recently completed the third and final phase of the school's construction. This project consists of seven additional permanent classrooms and related restroom and other facilities.

Loomis is considering long range building plans to accommodate a new development which will be built within the District (Bickford Ranch). The proposed merger will enhance these building plans by adding economies of scale, additional funding, and additional flexibility. Ophir will benefit from the merger by gaining permanent access to the Loomis's Maintenance and Grounds operation.

8. The Proposed Merger Is Not Primarily Designed to Result in a Significant Increase in Property Values Causing Financial Advantage to Property Owners.

This merger is not designed to increase property values or create any financial advantage to property owners in either School District. This merger is proposed by the two School Boards for the purpose of creating a more efficient and better run District.

In addition, given that both the Ophir Elementary School District and the Loomis Union Elementary School District are well-regarded, merger should not cause a dramatic increase in the property values in either of the current School Districts.

9. The Proposed Merger Will Not Cause a Substantial Negative Effect on the Fiscal Management or Fiscal Status of Loomis Union Elementary School District.

Both the Loomis and Ophir Districts have "positive" budget certifications for the Fiscal Year 2006-07 (See Attachments E and F). This means that each Board has certified that its District can meet its

financial obligations for the current fiscal year and the following two fiscal years. In addition both Districts have received positive Independent Auditors Reports for the 2006-07 school year (See Attachments G and H).

Further, there are no material liabilities that would be produced as a result of the merger. Existing assets and liabilities of the two Districts would simply be combined. This combination would benefit the reorganized District through increased economies of scale. In addition, any increased costs to Loomis related to merging and reporting the Ophir's students, staff, facilities, etc. would be offset by corresponding revenue sources.

B. No Approval by the State Board of Education is Required

Education Code Sections 35706 and 35710 authorize the County Committee to approve a territory transfer without input from the State. This merger is a territory transfer within the meaning of Section 35710.

**VI. METHOD FOR DIVIDING BONDED
INDEBTEDNESS**

Prior to merger, Loomis generated money from the issuance of bonds to benefit property exclusively within the current boundaries of the Loomis Union Elementary School District. Therefore, pursuant to Education Code § 35738, equity demands that the current bonded indebtedness of the Loomis Union Elementary School District remain as bonded debt only on property owned within the current Loomis District. This debt should not be extended to property owned within the Ophir District upon merger. (Attachment L)

VII. TRUSTEE AREAS

Upon merger, the trustee areas of the remaining reorganized District will be those shown in the attached Trustee Area Map (See Attachment I).

VIII. ELECTION OF GOVERNING BOARD

The territory which currently comprises the Ophir Elementary School District will be combined into trustee Area One, Citrus Colony. Members of the Ophir community wishing to run for a school board seat may do so when the Area One trustee position becomes available, in 2008.

IX. EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

A. In General

Employees of Ophir will become employees of Loomis if the merger is approved. The employment of certificated and classified employees will be governed by the collective bargaining agreements between Loomis and the Loomis Teachers Association (LTA) and California School Employees Association (CSEA), respectively.

**MEASURE D PETITION
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

**MEASURE D
PETITION CONTINUED**

They will be granted all rights as provided for by Education Code Sections 35555 and 35556.

The employment of non-certificated, non-classified employees will be governed by Loomis' policies and procedures.

Employees of Ophir will not retain any rights they had as a result of their employment with Ophir.

B. Articles 17.1, 17.2 and 17.3 of the LTA Contract

Articles 17.1, 17.2 and 17.3 of the LTA contract provide post-retirement, District-paid health benefits to certificated employees, subject to eligibility requirements. Each article requires minimum years of service to the District, an employment date of either September or October 1988, and that the employee had reached a certain age by September or October 1988.

Solely for purposes of determining eligibility under Articles 17.1, 17.2 and 17.3, the effective date of the merger shall be the date of employment for Ophir employees with the Loomis District. Thus, no Ophir employee will be eligible for the benefits described in Articles 17.1, 17.2 and 17.3 after retirement from Loomis.

X. EFFECT OF PENDING TERRITORY TRANSFERS

On June 5, 2006, the Placer County Committee on School District Organization granted petitions by both

Ophir and Loomis to transfer territory from Western Placer Unified School District to each District. (See Attachments J and K for descriptions of the territories to be transferred to Ophir and Loomis, respectively.)

The Districts are awaiting the finalization of the transfers by the Placer County Board of Supervisors. The transfers will become effective July 1, 2007. This petition is contingent upon the finalized territory transfers, because the transfers will create a contiguous border between Ophir and Loomis. Without such a contiguous border, the merger cannot occur.

The Districts respectfully request that the County Committee grant this petition contingent upon the completion of the aforementioned territory transfers from the Western Placer Unified School District to Ophir and Loomis.

I. CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, the merger will benefit the students of both School Districts. Additionally, there will be no significant impact on the State caused by the reorganization.

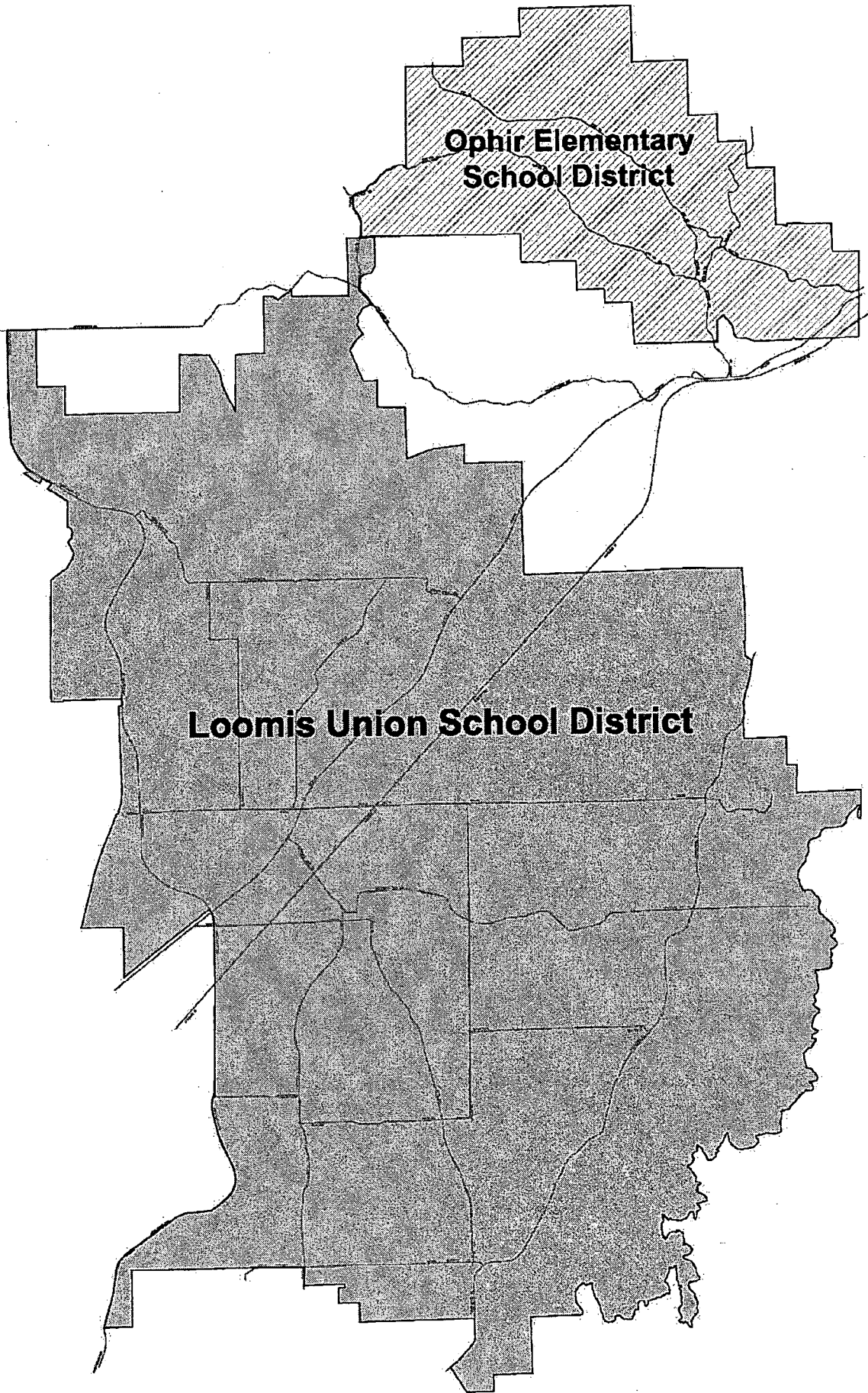
Date: March 8, 2007

For Loomis Union Elementary School District: James L. Foster, Jr., M.J. Edwards, Jack R. Day

Date: March 1, 2007

For Ophir Elementary School District: Chris Dunaway, Gabby Michanie, Claudia Matulich, David A. Lake, John C. Chappell

*Attachments to this petition, such as resolutions, enrollment counts, budget certifications, independent auditor's reports, a description of territories, additional maps, and a letter from the Placer County Treasurer-Tax Collector, are available upon request. For a copy of this petition with attachments, please contact the Elections Division at (530) 886-5650.



**Ophir Elementary
School District**

Loomis Union School District



Voter Alert-Voting System Security

Recently there has been discussion regarding voting system security and accessibility.

Placer County is pleased that the voting system configuration preferred by the California Secretary of State's office - the optical scan system with one touchscreen voting machine in each polling place to comply with federal law for disabled access - is the configuration used in our county.

This means that Placer County will not be required to purchase new voting equipment - we will continue to use the same voting system that has been used in the last several elections.

If you have questions about voting system security and/or accessibility, let us know. Our office is always available to answer your questions and we would welcome your involvement on one of our citizen advisory committees. You are also invited to observe the entire elections process, including election night tabulation and post-election canvassing procedures.

Thank you,
Jim McCauley
Placer County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar

Permanent Absentee Voter Status

- Would you like to make voting more convenient?
- Would you like more time to review your voting choices in the comfort of your own home?

You can do this by becoming a Permanent Absentee Voter (PAV)

Some voters may not know that state law allows all voters to receive a ballot by mail. Permanent Absentee Voters receive their ballots about 4 weeks before every election. It gives them time to think about their voting choices, return their ballot on or before Election Day and they do not have to plan time to appear at a specific polling place. Currently in Placer County, almost half of all registered voters are Permanent Absentee Voters.

To request PAV status, complete and return the absentee application on the back of this sample ballot booklet. Our office will process the application and you will automatically receive a ballot for each election. If the signature line indicates you're already a Permanent Absentee Voter, then there is no need to return the application. Your ballot is on its way.

For more information about this service, please call the Placer County Elections Division at 530-886-5650 or toll-free in California, 1-800-824-8683.

PLACER COUNTY VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

Your right to vote is important to us. The Placer County Elections Division compiled this information to explain the election process, your voting rights and some of the services we offer.

#1 - The Right to Vote

You may vote in a scheduled election if you are a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old by Election Day, not currently in prison or on parole for a felony conviction, live in Placer County, and provide us with a completed voter registration card at least 15 days before the scheduled election. If you go to the polls and are not listed on our registration rolls, you have the right to cast a provisional ballot. You also have the right to vote as long as you are in line at your polling place before the polls close at 8:00 PM. There are a few exceptions to these rules, so contact the Elections Division with any questions.

#2 - The Right Not to Vote

State law no longer requires you to vote in every election to stay registered. If none of the candidates or issues interest you by Election Day, you can skip the election and your registration will not be deleted. In addition, if your ballot has multiple issues, you are not required to vote on all of them. Blank sections on your ballot will not affect any of your other votes.

#3 - The Right to Vote by Absentee Ballot or Permanent Absentee Ballot

Whether you are sick, out of town or just like the convenience of voting from home, all California voters have the option of voting by absentee ballot. Your written request for an absentee ballot must be received at least one week before the election to allow us enough time to process and mail your ballot. For best results, use the form on the back of this sample ballot booklet. You may also become a Permanent Absentee Voter (meaning your ballot will always be mailed to you without your having to complete an application each election). You may return your completed absentee ballot by mail or to any poll location in the county on Election Day or drop it at our office, but we must receive it no later than 8:00 PM Election Day.

#4 - The Right to Request Another Ballot

If you make a mistake when voting your official ballot, you may return your spoiled ballot and receive a new one at the polls (or from the Elections Division if voting by absentee ballot). However, state law allows us to issue no more than two replacement ballots per voter.

#5 - The Right to Assistance and to Ask Questions

Important information is contained in your sample ballot booklet, at the polls, and on our website at www.placer.ca.gov/elections. You can also take your sample ballot booklet or other voting guides with you into the polls. If you are physically unable to vote without assistance, we have devices to help you in casting your vote or an elections official or other person of your choice can aid you. Your election officials are available to answer any questions about election procedures, as well.

#6 - The Right to Unbiased Political Information

Many people are so frustrated by negative political campaigning that they have decided to stop voting. While we cannot stop negative campaigning completely, we will enforce our "No Negative Attacks" policy for Candidate Statements printed in this sample ballot booklet, to the best of our ability.

#7 - The Right to Contact the Candidates

Can't find out how a candidate stands on an issue? The Elections Division requires each local candidate to provide at least one public telephone number so you can have your questions answered.

#8 - The Right to Watch Ballots Being Counted and Observe the Canvass

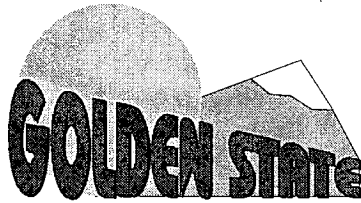
Counting ballots is a public process. Eleven days before Election Day, the Elections Division begins opening and preparing the absentee ballots to be included in Election Night totals. Voters may observe this process, and for years we have invited the public to come and observe Election Night activities. Voters are also allowed to watch what goes on at the polling places Election Day. For rules on how to be an Election Night or polling place observer, please contact the Elections Division. After Election Day, the election canvass begins. This is an internal audit required by state law to ensure the accuracy of election results. California election law allows 28 days to conduct the official canvass. During the canvass, absentee and provisional ballots not counted on Election Night are checked for eligibility, write in votes are tallied, the number of ballots cast are balanced against the number of ballots issued, and a hand count of 1% of all ballots cast in each race is performed to verify the machine count. All aspects of the canvass are open to public inspection.

#9 - The Right to Hold Office and to Make a Difference

At each November election, Placer County has over 200 local offices up for election. Someone has to fill these offices – why not you? If you are registered to vote and live in a district or city going to election, you are most likely eligible. We conduct candidate workshops roughly six months before every major election, which will walk you through the candidate filing process (watch your local newspaper or call us for dates and times).

#10 - The Right to a Fair Election

You have the right to report any illegal or fraudulent activity to our office or to the Secretary of State's Office. If you believe you have been denied any of your rights, or if you are aware of any election fraud or misconduct, please call us at (530) 886-5650 or toll-free in California 1-800-824-8683 or you may use the Secretary of State's confidential, toll-free VOTER PROTECTION HOTLINE at 1-800-345-8683.



IMPORTANT VOTER INFORMATION!

There are four ways to vote in Placer County:

1. **Polling Place Voting:** Your polling place is listed on the front of this sample ballot booklet. Polls are open on Election Day from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Find your polling place by going to the Elections Division website at www.placer.ca.gov/elections or by calling the Elections Division office at 530-886-5650 or toll-free in California 1-800-824-8683 for directions.
2. **Absentee Ballot Voting:** You may request an absentee ballot by using the form on the back of this sample ballot booklet or by printing a copy from the website listed above.

If you do not receive your requested absentee ballot within five days, please call the Elections Division at 530-886-5650 or toll-free in California 1-800-824-8683 to request another absentee ballot.

3. **Mail Ballot Precinct Voting:** Your ballot is automatically mailed to you.

Your voted absentee or mail ballot must be received by the Elections Division no later than 8:00 PM on Election Day. If your ballot arrives later than November 6, 2007 (even with a November 6, 2007 postmark), your ballot cannot be counted. If you prefer, you may drop off your ballot at any Placer County polling place on Election Day or at the Elections Division any day from October 8, 2007 until Election Day. We also have a 24-hour drive-up ballot drop-off box located at 2956 Richardson Drive, Auburn.

4. **Early Voting at the Elections Division in Auburn:** Beginning 29 days before each election, the Placer County Elections Division opens as a polling place providing voters with ballots they can vote at the office or take home. The Elections Division is located at 2956 Richardson Drive in Auburn and is open from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. Please telephone us or visit our website listed above for additional information.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE the Elections Division in Auburn will be open from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on the following weekend days prior to the Election. Placer County voters can come to the Elections Division located at 2956 Richardson Drive, Auburn to vote, pick up absentee ballots or drop off their voted ballots.

Saturday, October 27th

Sunday, October 28th

Saturday, November 3rd

Sunday, November 4th

**No matter how you vote
- at the polls, by absentee or by mail ballot -
have your voice heard on November 6, 2007**

Voters: Your polling place location and/or mail ballot status may have changed and here is why...

On the front cover of this sample ballot booklet, you will find your polling place location. If you live in a mail ballot precinct, no polling place will be listed. Instead, this information will be blank and your official ballot will be mailed to you.

In certain areas of Placer County, voters receive their official ballots in the mail instead of at the polls. These areas are called "Mail Ballot Precincts." Other times, factors like growth, polling place availability or boundary line adjustments change your voting location or status.

Some voters like mail ballots because they enjoy the convenience of voting from home. Other voters prefer voting at a polling place. While we attempt to provide a polling place for every voter, this is not always possible. Furthermore, it is not always possible to have voters go back to the same polling place for each election.

Additionally, some voters will find that they have been moved to new polling places or into mail ballot precincts because of "reapportionment." Reapportionment (and redistricting) refers to the process of moving Congressional, Senate, Assembly and Supervisorial district lines to make representation more equal among citizens. Reapportionment occurs after every national census.



PLEASE READ THE FRONT COVER OF YOUR SAMPLE BALLOT BOOKLET BEFORE ELECTION DAY TO DETERMINE YOUR VOTING STATUS OR LOCATION.

You may also locate your polling place and obtain driving directions from our website at www.placer.ca.gov/elections.

If your polling place will be inconvenient to go to on Election Day, the Elections Division can mail you an absentee ballot that you may vote in the privacy of your home. You may request an absentee ballot by using the form on the back cover of this booklet. If you are a permanent absentee or mail ballot voter, you *do not* need to complete this application because a ballot will automatically be mailed to you.

If you are a mail ballot voter and would prefer to vote at a polling place, starting October 8th, you may come to the Elections Division during office hours and vote your official ballot in person. Please call 530-886-5650 or toll-free in California 1-800-824-8683 for directions to our Auburn office.

No matter how you vote, at the polls, by mail ballot or in the Elections Division...

Please be sure to vote on Election Day!