FEASIBILITY STUDY
FOR A REQUEST TO TRANSFER TERRITORY
FROM
UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT AND
CAMPBELL UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
TO
LOS GATOS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT AND
LOS GATOS-SARATOGA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

July 2015

Santa Clara County Office of Education

Prepared for the
Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization

by

The Office of the Superintendent
Santa Clara County Office of Education

Jon R. Gundry, Superintendent
BACKGROUND

A request to transfer territory from Union School District (USD) and Campbell Union High School District (CUHSD) to Los Gatos Union School District (LGUSD) and Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District (LGSJUHSD) has been presented to the Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee). See Appendix A for a copy of the request.

The territory proposed for transfer includes 59 parcels located in the Alta Vista neighborhood of Los Gatos. A list of the addresses, parcel numbers, and maps of the territory proposed for transfer can be found in Appendix B.

The request to transfer territory was submitted to the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools on February 6, 2015. The petition was subsequently transmitted to the County Committee and State Board of Education on February 11, 2015 (see Appendix C). The public hearings of the petitions mandated by Education Code Section 35705 were held on March 31, 2015 and April 21, 2015. Appendix D contains a copy of the notices of the public hearings, description of petition, and minutes from the hearings.

The transfer request is based on children’s safety, community identity, geographic isolation, and the precedent of surrounding neighborhoods along Shannon Road included in the Los Gatos school districts.

Each of the affected school districts is opposed to the transfer request. Appendix E contains a copy of each district’s resolution and letters of opposition from LGUSD and LGSJUHSD.

The County Committee has 120 days from the first public hearing (July 31, 2015) to approve or disapprove the petition. (Ed. Code § 35706). In making its decision, the County Committee must determine whether the following conditions regarding the petition are substantially met (Ed. Code § 35709,35710):

1. The reorganized districts will be adequate in terms of number of pupils enrolled.
2. The districts are each organized on the basis of a substantial community identity.
3. The proposal will result in an equitable division of property and facilities of the original district or districts.
4. The reorganization of the districts will preserve each affected district’s ability to educate students in an integrated environment and will not promote racial or ethnic discrimination or segregation.

5. Any increase in costs to the state as a result of the proposed reorganization will be insignificant and otherwise incidental to the reorganization.

6. The proposed reorganization will continue to promote sound education performance and will not significantly disrupt the educational programs in the districts affected by the proposed reorganization.

7. Any increase in school facilities costs as a result of the proposed reorganization will be insignificant and otherwise incidental to the reorganization.

8. The proposed reorganization is primarily designed for purposes other than to significantly increase property values.

9. The proposed reorganization will continue to promote sound fiscal management and not cause a substantial negative effect on the fiscal status of the proposed district or any existing district affected by the proposed reorganization.

10. Any other criteria as the board may, by regulation, prescribe.

Petitioners and/or affected school districts may appeal to the State Board of Education the decision of the County Committee (Education Code section 35710.5). Petitioners have five days and school districts have 30 days to notify the County Committee of intent to appeal. Within 15 days of this notification, appellants must file a statement of reasons and factual evidence supporting the appeal. The County Office of Education will transmit the appeal to the State Board of Education along with a complete administrative record of the proceedings.

The study team for this feasibility report is comprised of Suzanne Carrig of the Office of the Superintendent, Santa Clara County Office of Education.
1.0 CRITERION 1

California Education Code Section 35753 (a)(1) – The reorganized districts will be adequate in terms of number of pupils enrolled.

This topic is governed by Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Section 18753 (a), which states that each of the affected school districts shall have the following projected enrollment on the date the proposal become effective:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District Type</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elementary District</td>
<td>901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School District</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unified District</td>
<td>1,501</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current student enrollments (taken from the 2014-2015 California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS) reports) for each of the four affected school districts are listed in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School District</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USD</td>
<td>5,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUHSD</td>
<td>7,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGUSD</td>
<td>3,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGSJUHSD</td>
<td>3,302</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A total of 11 public school students currently reside in the territory proposed for transfer; six in USD and 5 in the CUHSD.

Based on the current enrollment of the affected districts, each district would have the required enrollment if the proposal were approved.

The study team recommends that Criterion 1 is met.
2.0 CRITERION 2

California Education Code Section 35753 (a)(2) - The districts are each organized on the basis of a substantial community identity.

The California Code of Regulations (CCR) § 18753 (a)(2) suggest using the following criteria to determine whether a district is organized on the basis of substantial community identity:
(a) Isolation;
(b) Geography;
(c) Distance between social centers;
(d) Distance between school centers;
(e) Topography;
(f) Weather; and
(g) Community, school, and social ties, and other circumstances peculiar to the area.

A. Isolation
The 59 parcels proposed for transfer are located in the southern portion of USD in the hills off of Shannon Road. The area proposed for transfer has one entry/exit via Santa Rosa Drive to Shannon Road. There is no direct driving access from the territory proposed for transfer to USD and CUHSD schools due to the placement of a fire gate at Harwood Road. Travel to USD and CUHSD must be done by driving through LGUSD and LGSJUHSD. There are no alternate driving routes from the area proposed for transfer to USD and CUHSD due to the placement of a gate and fire road on Harwood Road. Harwood Road, at one time, provided direct driving access to USD and CUHSD. Figure 1 shows the transfer area (within the read oval) and roads in the surrounding area.

Figure 1. Overview of Transfer Area
In Figure 1, the box labeled A marks the location of the fire gate at Harwood Road; Figures 2a and 2b are images of the fire gate from both ends of the road.

2a. Harwood Road Fire Gate

2b. Harwood Road Fire Gate and Road
The box labeled B in Figure 1 is not a through road, Figure 2c is a photo of the road which indicates that there are no motor vehicles allowed.

2c. Madera Court

Photographs were taken by County Committee staff Suzanne Carrig on June 3, 2015.

Figure 1, box C indicates the entrance and exit point from the area proposed for transfer. This entry/exit point is within LGUSD and LGSJUHSD. The area can be considered isolated from CUSD and CUHSD due to the single entry point in which residents must travel through LGUSD and LGSJUHSD in order to get to schools in CUSD and CUHSD. Additionally, there is no direct access from area to CUSD and CUHSD as the map and photos indicate.

B. Geography
The area proposed for transfer is located in hilly terrain where access to the neighborhood is via a steep and winding road. However, there are no significant geographical distinctions between any of the affected school districts that would impact this request.

C. Distance from Social Centers
There are several social centers, retail establishments and grocery stores within reasonable driving distance of the property proposed for transfer. Residents of the area are most likely to drive to the social centers and retail centers that best fit their needs. Therefore, due to personal preferences the significance of distance is diminished since residents will choose shopping and social centers that best meet their needs.
D. Distance from School Centers
The travel distances and times to each of the schools in the affected districts is similar. Any differences in these travel distances and times do not meet the Santa Clara County Committee’s definition of extreme hardship (an extreme hardship, under commute duration, exists if the length of time to travel between the territory proposed for transfer and the closest school district of residence exceeds the length of time to travel to the desired school district by 20 minutes or more - see Appendix F).

It is unlikely students in the area proposed for transfer would walk or ride their bikes to schools in any of the affected districts due to topography of the area and the lack of sidewalks and conditions on Shannon Road and Hicks Road.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schools</th>
<th>Distance (Miles)</th>
<th>Time (Minutes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Schools</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noddin (USD)</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blossom Hill (LGUSD)</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexington (LGUSD)</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Schools</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union (USD)</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisher (LGUSD)</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Schools</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leigh (CUHSD)</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Gatos (LGSJUHSD)</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Direction source: Google Maps, February 3, 2015. Starting point beginning at the intersection of Shannon Road and Santa Rosa Drive. Travel done by COE staff on June 3, 2015.

E. Topography
The affected districts each share a similar topography.

F. Weather
Weather is the same throughout and is therefore not a factor.

G. Community, School, and Social Ties and other Circumstances
Petitioners have stated in their transfer request and at the public hearings that they have a strong community identity with the town of Los Gatos. Petitioners state that the single entrance and exit through the town of Los Gatos has created a sense of community identity more with the Los Gatos community than with the Campbell community. Residents in the area are associated with numerous community-based activities in Los Gatos as well as business activities.

The study team recommends that Criterion 2 is met.
3.0 CRITERION 3

California Education Code Section 35753 (a)(3) - The proposal will result in an equitable division of property and facilities of the original district or districts.

There is no real property located in the territory proposed for transfer therefore no such property will be divided.

**General Obligation Bonds**
The territory proposed for transfer will drop any liability for outstanding bonded indebtedness of the district(s) of which it was formerly a part and assume its proportionate share of the outstanding bonded indebtedness of the districts(s) of which it becomes a part. (Education Code Section 35575)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Bond (in millions)</th>
<th>Date Approved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USD</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>June, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUHSD</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>November, 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGUSD</td>
<td>$30.9</td>
<td>June, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGSFUHSD</td>
<td>$99</td>
<td>June, 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Property Tax Revenue**
Provisions for the exchange of property tax revenue are set forth in Revenue and Taxation Code Section 99(i).

The current property tax revenue for the territory proposed for reorganization is approximately $1.3 million dollars. If the transfer of territory is approved, LGUSD and LGSFUHSD would gain the property tax revenue of the territory proposed for transfer and USD and CUHSD would lose the property tax revenue.

There would be no division of any property, funds or obligations, and current law would provide for shifts in responsibility of existing bonded indebtedness, if the territory was approved for transfer.

The study team recommends that Criterion 3 is met.
4.0 CRITERION 4

California Education Code Section 35753 (a)(4) – The reorganization of the districts will preserve each affected district’s ability to educate students in an integrated environment and will not promote racial or ethnic discrimination or segregation.

School districts have a constitutional obligation to prevent racial and ethnic segregation and to alleviate the harmful effects of segregation. As such, any school district reorganization should not isolate minority students and deprive all students of an integrated educational experience.

The information on racial/ethnic groups in the affected districts is taken from the 2014-2015 California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS) report. The racial/ethnic group categories used by CBEDS are:

- American Indian or Alaskan Native - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America and who maintain cultural identification through tribal affiliation of community recognition.

- Asian - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent.

- Pacific Islander - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Polynesian, Micronesian, or Melanesian Islands.

- Filipino - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Philippine Islands.

- Hispanic - A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

- Black - Not of Hispanic origin, a non-Hispanic person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.

- White - Not of Hispanic origin, a non-Hispanic person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.
Tables 4 and 5 depict the number of students and the percentage of students in each of the racial/ethnic groups in the four affected school districts.

**Table 4 - Race/Ethnicity of Students in Affected Districts by Number**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>American Indian</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Pacific Islander</th>
<th>Filipino</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Mult./No Response</th>
<th>White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USD</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>918</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>947</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>602</td>
<td>2,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUHSD</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>852</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>2,572</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>2,978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGUSD</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>2,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGSJUHSD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>971</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>1,735</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 5 - Race/Ethnicity of Students in Affected Districts by Percentage**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>American Indian</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Pacific Islander</th>
<th>Filipino</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Mult./No Response</th>
<th>White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USD</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>51.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUHSD</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>35.0</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>40.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGUSD</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>69.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGSJUHSD</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>29.8</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>53.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are currently 11 public school students residing in the area proposed for transfer. If the proposed territory transfer were approved, there would be no effect on the racial/ethnic balance of the affected districts by the proposed transfer. The potential number of students who could live within the area to be transferred would not significantly impact the racial/ethnic balance of the affected school districts.

The study team recommends that Criterion 4 is met.

### 5.0 CRITERION 5

**California Education Code Section 35753 (a)(5) –** Any increase in costs to the state as a result of the proposed reorganization will be insignificant and otherwise incidental to the reorganization.

The State Board of Education has not adopted a regulation to implement this criterion. However, the *School District Organization Handbook*, 2006 edition, published by the State Department of Education, suggests that the following factors be considered in analyzing whether the proposal will increase state costs:

a. Whether implementation of the proposal would change one or more of the affected districts’ basic aid status.

b. Additional state costs for school facilities.
c. Other state special or categorical aid programs and any increased state costs if students transferring would qualify in the gaining district and not in the losing district.

d. The additional costs to the state if costs per student for special or categorical programs are higher in the gaining district.

e. The effect on the districts’ home-to-school and special education transportation costs and state reimbursements.

f. Increased costs resulting from additional schools becoming eligible for “necessary small school” funding pursuant to Sections 42280 through 42289.”

With the introduction of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) legislation the revenue limit funding formula was eliminated. Under the new funding formula, districts receive a uniform dollar amount per grade level, known as the base grant. In addition to the base grant, districts may receive additional funds depending on the number of high-needs students in the district. High-needs students include students who are low-income, English learners, and foster youth students. Based on the number of high-needs students, a district can receive an additional 20 percent of the base grant; this is the supplemental grant. The concentration grant is added on when a district has 55 percent or more of high-needs students enrolled in the district.

Currently, none of the affected school districts meets the concentration percentage of high-needs students (55%), USD has 20.62%, CUHSD 26%, LGUSD 5.86%, and LGSJUHSD 3.18% (source: California Department of Education, School Fiscal Services Division, LCFF Funding Snapshot, June, 2015). However, both USD and CUHSD received supplemental grant funds.

Cost Factors

1. Whether the implementation of the proposal would change one or more of the affected districts’ basic aid status.

The territory proposed for transfer has an assessed valuation of approximately $109 million generating total tax revenues of approximately $1.3 million. Each of the affected school districts, with the exception of USD, is a basic aid school district. CUHSD is in basic aid status by $10 million therefore the loss of tax revenues to CUHSD would not affect their basic aid status if the transfer were to be approved.

2. Additional state costs for school facilities.

The proposed reorganization, if approved would not create an additional cost to the state for school facilities.
3. Other state special or categorical aid programs and any increased state costs if students transferring would qualify in the gaining district and not in the losing district.

Under the new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) legislation most categorical program funding streams were eliminated. The LCFF target amount districts now receive are by grade span and include base, supplemental, and concentration grants, with add-ons for the former Home-to-School Transportation and Targeted Instructional Improvement Block Grant Programs. Funds would shift to the district receiving the students.

4. The additional costs to the state in costs per student for special or categorical programs are higher in the gaining district.

This does not apply in the current system of school funding. The LCFF funding model has eliminated most categorical funding streams. Funding for districts is uniform for school district by grade span and additional funding for districts is based on percentage of high-needs students in the district.

5. The effect on the districts home-to-school special education transportation costs and state reimbursements.

There are currently no special education students in the area proposed for transfer therefore there would be no effect on special education transportation.

6. Increased costs resulting from additional schools becoming eligible for “necessary small school funding...”

All of the schools in the affected school districts are within 15 miles of other schools. The transfer of territory will not result in the creation of additional necessary small schools nor will it relegate existing schools to necessary small school status.

The study team recommends that Criterion 5 is met.
6.0 CRITERION 6

California Education Code Section 35753 (a)(6) - The proposed reorganization will continue to promote sound education performance and will not significantly disrupt the educational programs in the districts affected by the proposed reorganization.

California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 18573 (a)(5) states that the proposal or petition shall not significantly adversely affect the educational programs of districts affected by the proposal or petition. In analyzing the proposal or petition, the California Department of Education (Santa Clara County Office of Education for purposes of this study) shall describe the districtwide programs and the school site programs in schools not a part of the proposal or petition that will be adversely affected by the proposal or petition.

Each of the affected districts currently provides sound educational programs for their students and the transfer, if approved, is not expected to significantly impact the quality of the education provided in any of the districts.

In the short term, both LGUSD and LGSJUHSD would likely be able to place the current 11 students (6 elementary, 5 high school) in classrooms in the districts; however, LGUSD would likely not be able to place the students in the neighborhood school, Blossom Hill Elementary.

The impact of the reorganization in the long term due to the potential increase of students would likely compound the problem of overcrowding for LGUSD and LGSJUHSD. District representatives and parents from both LGUSD and LGSJUHSD have stated in the public hearings that classrooms are full, students in some cases are not able to attend neighborhood schools, and some are required to attend Lexington Elementary rather than their neighborhood school.

Table 6. Ten Year Enrollment History of Affected School Districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>CUHSD</th>
<th>LGUSD</th>
<th>LGSJUHSD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05-06</td>
<td>4,413</td>
<td>7,721</td>
<td>2,628</td>
<td>3,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06-07</td>
<td>4,421</td>
<td>7,779</td>
<td>2,587</td>
<td>3,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07-08</td>
<td>4,510</td>
<td>7,838</td>
<td>2,706</td>
<td>3,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08-09</td>
<td>4,576</td>
<td>7,746</td>
<td>2,828</td>
<td>3,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09-10</td>
<td>4,737</td>
<td>7,791</td>
<td>2,930</td>
<td>3,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>4,769</td>
<td>7,581</td>
<td>3,031</td>
<td>3,153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>5,029</td>
<td>7,408</td>
<td>3,106</td>
<td>3,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>5,298</td>
<td>7,417</td>
<td>3,188</td>
<td>3,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>5,408</td>
<td>7,353</td>
<td>3,261</td>
<td>3,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-15</td>
<td>5,533</td>
<td>7,453</td>
<td>3,320</td>
<td>3,302</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enrollment in both LGUSD and LGSJUHSD has increased each year since 2006-07. In addition, enrollment for both districts is projected to increase over time. In its Notice of Written Findings for Overcrowding, April 17, 2015 provided to the Town of Los Gatos, the LGUSD states that the district’s facilities are overcrowded “to the point that they are affecting teaching and learning in the 21st century.” Additionally, the district makes the following claim:

“We have limited classroom facility space for science labs, literacy centers, music and art classrooms – and even when we adjust and make due with what we have – our cafeterias and multipurpose rooms are not right-sized for the number of students enrolled at each school.” (pg. 6)

At the public hearings on April 21, 2015, Superintendent Mistele stated that teachers at LGSJUHSD have to share classroom space due to capacity issues. Additional information provided by the district (via email on May 7, 2015) states that 42 teachers at LGHS share classroom space.

Although the issue of overcrowding in LGUSD and LGSJUHSD currently exists, this particular criterion states that the proposed reorganization will continue to promote sound educational performance and will not significantly disrupt the educational programs of the districts affected. It is the opinion of this study team that the approval of the transfer will not impact the quality of the education programs offered at the affected school district but would compound the issue of overcrowding and disrupt the educational programs of both LGUSD and LGSJUHSD.

The study team recommends that Criterion 6 is not met.

7.0 CRITERION 7

California Education Code Section 35753 (a)(7) – Any increase in school facilities costs as a result of the proposed reorganization will be insignificant and otherwise incidental to the reorganization.

No regulations have been adopted under this criterion; however, according to the CDE's School District Organization Handbook, the discussion should provide a concise analysis of the availability of school facilities to house the pupils in the portion of the district being reorganized.

The Handbook provides that, in the case of a territory transfer, the study “should address whether the school district receiving the new students has adequate facilities to house them. If new facilities are required, the study should address how facilities will be funded” (CDE School District Organization Handbook, 89).
In addition, the Handbook recommends that the following areas should also be addressed:

a. Local bonding capacity. It should be determined whether the territory transfer reduces the assessed valuation of a district to a point where the bonding capacity might be impaired.

b. Developer fees. An analysis should be made of how income from developer fees might be affected. Whether developer fees have already been paid, whether they have increased or decreased because of the district losing or gaining the territory, and the impacts of the territory transfer should be determined.

c. School property. If there is school property in the area to be transferred, the impact on each district should be determined. If a school is to be transferred, it should be determined how the district losing the school will compensate for the loss of the facilities. If school sites are involved, it should be determined how each district’s facility plan will be affected.

d. School capacity. The analysis should take into consideration whether the schools are operating on traditional, single, or multi-track schedules.

e. Condition of existing facilities. The analysis should distinguish between permanent and portable buildings, the age of the facilities, whether they have been well or poorly maintained or modernized, whether they have had technological upgrades, and the conditions of the mechanical systems on the school site (e.g. HVAC).

f. State School Facilities Program. It should be determined how the loss and gain of pupils will affect school districts’ eligibility for state building funding.

**Bonding Capacity**

The bonding capacity of a school district is determined by the total assessed valuation of the district; for an elementary and high school district the bonding capacity is 1.25% of the total assessed value and for a unified district it is 2.5% of the total assessed value. The current total bonding capacity of the affected school districts is illustrated in Tables 7 and 8.
### Table 7. Current Bonding Capacity for Affected School Districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>CUHSD</th>
<th>LGUSD</th>
<th>LGSJUHSD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Total assessed valuation secured and unsecured</td>
<td>$7,645,103,294</td>
<td>$37,247,318,596</td>
<td>$9,786,571,363</td>
<td>$20,543,864,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Applicable percentage bond debt</td>
<td>1.25%</td>
<td>1.25%</td>
<td>1.25%</td>
<td>1.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Bonding capacity (1)x(2)</td>
<td>$95,563,791</td>
<td>$465,591,482</td>
<td>$122,332,142</td>
<td>256,798,301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Outstanding bonded indebtedness</td>
<td>$91,809,422</td>
<td>$146,910,000</td>
<td>$98,870,000</td>
<td>$80,170,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Santa Clara County, Finance Agency Controller-Treasurer - Property Tax Division, June 2015.

### Table 8. Bonding Capacity for Affected Districts if Transfer Approved

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>CUHSD</th>
<th>LGUSD</th>
<th>LGSJUHSD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Total assessed valuation secured and unsecured</td>
<td>$7,535,719,304</td>
<td>$37,137,934,606</td>
<td>$9,895,955,353</td>
<td>$20,653,248,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Applicable percentage bond debt</td>
<td>1.25%</td>
<td>1.25%</td>
<td>1.25%</td>
<td>1.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Bonding capacity (1)x(2)</td>
<td>$94,196,491</td>
<td>$464,224,182</td>
<td>$123,699,442</td>
<td>$258,165,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Outstanding bonded indebtedness</td>
<td>$91,809,422</td>
<td>$146,910,000</td>
<td>$98,870,000</td>
<td>$80,170,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Santa Clara County, Finance Agency Controller-Treasurer - Property Tax Division and County Assessor, June 2015.

Pursuant to Education Code Section 35575, if the transfer of territory were to be approved, LGUSD and LGSJUHSD would see an increase in available bonding capacity; LGUSD would increase to approximately $24.8 million and LGSJUHSD to $178 million. USD and CUHSD would see a decrease in available bonding capacity to $2.4 million and $317 million respectively. If the transfer were approved, the proportionate share of outstanding bonded indebtedness from USD and CUHSD would not transfer to LGUSD and LGSJUHSD; rather, the remaining portion of USD and CUHSD would be responsible for the outstanding bonded indebtedness but with a diminished tax base.
Developer Fees
The developer fees for each of the affected districts are listed in Table 9. The fees levied by each district are per square feet.

Table 9. Developer Fees for Affected Districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Residential</th>
<th>Commercial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USD</td>
<td>$2.24</td>
<td>$0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUHSD</td>
<td>$1.01</td>
<td>$0.141/$0.162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGUSD</td>
<td>$3.20</td>
<td>$0.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGSJUHSD*</td>
<td>$3.36</td>
<td>$0.54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Fees effective July 11, 2015

There is little development activity within the territory proposed for transfer and the number of parcels is small compared to the total number of parcels in USD and CUHSD, therefore the impact on developer fees for USD and CUHSD would not be significant.

School Property
The territory proposed to be transferred does not contain any school facilities.

School Capacity
Currently there are 11 public school students residing in the area proposed for transfer. The student generation rate for LGUSD is 0.386 and for LGSJUHSD is .208. Using these student generation rates for the area proposed for transfer, there is a potential for 23 elementary students and 12 high school students.

USD currently has 6 students in the area proposed for transfer and CUHSD has 5:

Kindergarten 1 9th grade 1 1st grade 1 11th grade 1 3rd grade 2 12th grade 3 5th grade 2

LGUSD has experienced an increase in enrollment every year since the 2006/2007 school year. LGUSD states that the increase in students is due mainly to net migration into the district and the addition of the transitional kindergarten (TK) program. Dr. Diana Abbati, Superintendent of LGUSD stated at the public hearings that the district is expecting approximately 360 new parcels in the next 5 to 10 years. Table 10 represents the ten year enrollment history for each of the affected school districts. LGUSD and LGSJUHSD have each had increasing enrollment since 2006-07.
Table 10. Ten Year Enrollment History of Affected School Districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>CUHSD</th>
<th>LGUSD</th>
<th>LGSJUHSD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05-06</td>
<td>4,413</td>
<td>7,721</td>
<td>2,628</td>
<td>3,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06-07</td>
<td>4,421</td>
<td>7,779</td>
<td>2,587</td>
<td>3,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07-08</td>
<td>4,510</td>
<td>7,838</td>
<td>2,706</td>
<td>3,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08-09</td>
<td>4,576</td>
<td>7,746</td>
<td>2,828</td>
<td>3,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09-10</td>
<td>4,737</td>
<td>7,791</td>
<td>2,930</td>
<td>3,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>4,769</td>
<td>7,581</td>
<td>3,031</td>
<td>3,153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>5,029</td>
<td>7,408</td>
<td>3,106</td>
<td>3,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>5,298</td>
<td>7,417</td>
<td>3,188</td>
<td>3,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>5,408</td>
<td>7,353</td>
<td>3,261</td>
<td>3,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-15</td>
<td>5,533</td>
<td>7,453</td>
<td>3,320</td>
<td>3,302</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


In October 2014, LGUSD contracted with Davis Demographics & Planning to undertake a demographic study for the purposes of planning. The study forecast enrollment for the district under three separate scenarios: no future development, known and approved future development, and all known future development moderate density. One of the findings of the report stated that the district will continue to see an increase in their student population but that growth will likely be slower in the future. (source: Student Population Projections by Residence: School Year 2014/2015 Report, Projections 2015/16 – 2024/25, Davis Demographics & Planning, Inc., November 3, 2014.)

As noted in the analysis for Criterion 6, LGUSD in its Notice of Written Findings for Overcrowding, April 17, 2015, stated that the district’s facilities are overcrowded “to the point that they are affecting teaching and learning in the 21st century.” Additionally, the district makes the following claim:

“We have limited classroom facility space for science labs, literacy centers, music and art classrooms – and even when we adjust and make due with what we have – our cafeterias and multipurpose rooms are not right-sized for the number of students enrolled at each school.” (pg. 6)

Table 11. Enrollment and Capacity by School Site for LGUSD – Spring 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Site</th>
<th>CDE Recommended Enrollment</th>
<th>Current Enrollment</th>
<th>Number of Students over Recommended Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blossom Hill</td>
<td>616</td>
<td>669</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daves</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexington</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>(141)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Meter</td>
<td>491</td>
<td>668</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisher Middle</td>
<td>1,103</td>
<td>1,246</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 12. Projected Enrollment for LGUSD for 2015/16 and 2016/17***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Site</th>
<th>2015/16 School Year</th>
<th>Number of Students over Recommended Capacity</th>
<th>2016/17 School Year</th>
<th>Number of Students over Recommended Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blossom Hill</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>694</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daves</td>
<td>586</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>574</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexington</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>(141)</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>(141)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Meter</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>673</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisher Middle</td>
<td>1,249</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>1,231</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Los Gatos Union School District, Notice of Written Findings For Overcrowding, April 17, 2015.
*Note – using Projection B: known and approved future development.

LGSJUHSD has a CDE recommended enrollment of 1,700 students but currently has an enrollment of 1,950 students according to Bob Mistele, Superintendent of LGSJUHSD (as of October 2014 the enrollment was 1,912 per CDE). At the public hearings on April 21, 2015, Superintendent Mistele stated that teachers at LGSJUHSD have to share classroom space due to capacity issues. Additional information provided by the district (via email on May 7, 2015) states that 42 teachers at LGHS share classroom space. According to the Executive Summary – Facilities Master Plan from February, 2014, the LGSJUHSD states that the “growth in student population has been identified by the District, school site, community and Board as one of the most critical issues facing the District.”

On May 17, 2015 Mr. David Stevens, a resident in the area proposed for transfer, provided a letter addressing the issue of capacity within LGUSD (Appendix G contains a copy of the letter). Mr. Stevens states in his letter that the Los Gatos schools are not overcrowded and have plenty of room for new students and that the Los Gatos schools are in no threat of overcrowding by approval of the petition. Mr. Stevens based these conclusions on information provided by the LGUSD Audit Report (June 30, 2014), the current SARCs for each school, and conversations with representatives at each of the schools in LGUSD and LGSJUHSD.

Neither the Audit report nor the SARCs specifically state that there is additional capacity for students. The SARCs address the issue of enrollment numbers, classroom size and facility conditions. For Blossom Hill, Daves, and Fisher Middle School the latest data show that there are more classrooms with a higher student to teacher ratio than the previous school year. Additionally, the SARC for Fisher Middle School states that the school is at 99% capacity. Additionally, follow-up discussions with representatives at the school sites (those available at the time this report was written) indicate that the conversations regarding capacity were either misinterpreted or held with a staff person who does not oversee facility/enrollment issues.
Condition of Existing Facilities
According to the most recent School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs) schools within LGUSD have undergone modernization and improvements in the last few years to accommodate growth. Most school sites within LGUSD were modernized in 2007. Fisher Middle School was remodeled in 2004 and recently completed renovations to its gymnasium, fitness/dance rooms, and locker rooms as well as a reorganization of its music classrooms. It was stated in the SARC that Fisher Middle School has one portable. The SARC also stated that the middle school is at 99% capacity. No other school sites in Los Gatos have portable classrooms. Lexington Elementary is a brand new school site in exemplary condition as stated in the facilities section of the most recent SARC. The SARC for Los Gatos High School indicates that the facilities are in overall good condition.

State School Facilities Program
If the proposed transfer is approved, the potential gain or loss of pupils will not affect the school districts’ eligibility for state building funding.

Conclusion
Currently there are 11 public school students residing in the area proposed for transfer, five elementary school students and six high school students. The potential number of students in the area proposed for transfer could increase to 23 using a student generation rate of .386 in LGUSD and .208 in LGSJUSHSD. Enrollment at LGUSD schools is currently over the recommended CDE capacity at each site with the exception of Lexington. Additional parcels will compound the issue of crowding and student placement within attendance areas as well as compound the issue of overcrowding at the Fisher middle school, the only middle school in the district.

Considering the portion of the district to be reorganized and assuming the transfer request were to be approved, students from the area proposed for transfer would be in the Blossom Hill attendance area. However, LGUSD has stated at the public hearings that they would likely be unable to assign additional students to Blossom Hill due to current conditions of overcrowding; rather, students would likely be assigned to Lexington which the district currently uses as an overflow school. Fisher Middle School is a concern to the district because it is the only middle school in the district. According to the most recent SARC, Fisher is at 99% capacity and is expected to exceed that capacity even in the absence of this request.

The study team recommends that Criterion 7 is not met.
8.0 CRITERION 8

California Education Code Section 35753 (a)(8) - The proposed reorganization is primarily designed for purposes other than to significantly increase property values.

The purpose of Criterion 8 is to ascertain whether the primary reason for proposing the transfer of territory is for financial advantage to the owners.

Based on the original request and statements made by the homeowners, there is no indication that this request is primarily designed to increase property values, rather the primary reason stated is community identity and safety.

The average value per the Santa Clara County Assessor for homes in the area is approximately $1.2 million, Zillow estimate is $3.3 million. At the time this study was written, there were two homes listed on the MLS; one home was being offered for $4.4 million and the second home was being offered for $3.8 million.

Based on the community identity criterion which the study team has found to be met, and based on the home value data presented above, it does not appear that the primary reason for the transfer is designed to increase property values.

The study team recommends that Criterion 8 is met.

9.0 CRITERION 9

California Education Code Section 35753 (a)(9) - The proposed reorganization will continue to promote sound fiscal management and not cause substantial negative effect on the fiscal status of the proposed district or any existing districts affected by the proposed reorganization.

There are no regulations on this subject. The CDE’s School District Organization Handbook provides the following:

The county committee should review and consider any potential revenue gains or losses resulting from community development, agency agreements or other pass-through agreements, loss of incremental taxes, Mello-Roos Community Facility District funds, parcel taxes, certificates of participation, basic aid, tax overrides, mitigation agreements with developers, and any other categorical or specialized funds (e.g. Public Law 874 funds and Timber Reserves).

(CDE’s School District Organization Handbook, 90.)
**Basic Aid Status**

Each of the affected school districts is basic aid with the exception of USD. The territory proposed for transfer has an assessed valuation of approximately $109 million generating total tax revenues of approximately $1.3 million. CUHSD receives approximately 19% ($247,000) of the tax revenue dollars. CUHSDs’ actual funding exceeds 2014-15 transition entitlement by $10,626,064. The loss of tax revenue, if the transfer of territory were to be approved would not impact the basic aid status of CUHSD or the other affected districts.

Dr. Abbati stated at the public hearings that although LGUSD is currently a basic aid district, when the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) is fully implemented the district will no longer be basic aid and will be the lowest funded district under LCFF (by 2017-18 school year). The district does not have the demographics (i.e. high needs students) to receive supplemental or block grants. This potential change in basic aid status is independent of the transfer of territory even if approved.

**Average Daily Attendance**

USD is the only affected district that is not basic aid. The latest demographic analysis for USD (November 2012) projects that the district’s enrollment will increase by approximately 500 students over a five year period (2012-2017).

In the public hearings on March 31, 2015, Dr. Jacqueline Horejs, Superintendent of USD, stated that the district closed two schools in 2004 due to declining enrollment and because the district is not basic aid, any further loss of enrollment would impact the district. However, the district has had an increase in enrollment since 2005-06 and the latest audit report (2013) states that USD continues to exercise good fiscal management and increased revenues through increased enrollment. (source: *Union School District, County of Santa Clara, San Jose, California, Audit Report, June 30, 2013*, http://www.unionsd.org/domain/9.)

**Table 13. USD Enrollment History**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>Enrollment Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05-06</td>
<td>4,413</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06-07</td>
<td>4,421</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07-08</td>
<td>4,510</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08-09</td>
<td>4,576</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09-10</td>
<td>4,737</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>4,769</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>5,029</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>5,298</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>5,408</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-15</td>
<td>5,533</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parcel Tax
Each of the affected school districts has a parcel tax still in effect. Table 14 below shows each district’s parcel tax and the date the parcel tax is set to expire.

Table 14. Parcel Tax Information by Affected District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Parcel Tax per Year</th>
<th>Expiration Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USD</td>
<td>$96</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUHSD</td>
<td>$85</td>
<td>2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGUSD</td>
<td>$290</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGSJUHSD</td>
<td>$49</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Individual school district websites.

If the transfer is approved, the USD parcel tax would expire before the transfer was effective. Regarding the other district parcel taxes, residents within the area proposed for transfer would drop their liability for the CUHSD parcel tax and assume responsibility for the parcel tax from both LGUSD and LGSJUHSD.

Assuming the transfer is approved and becomes effective July 1, 2016 for tax purposes and assuming there are no senior exemptions, CUHSD would lose 8 years of the parcel tax income from each of the homes, a total of $40,120 over 8 years. The Census tract in which this neighborhood lies has 12% of the residents listed as 65 years and older. If that percentage is applied to the transfer area, and assuming all resident 65 years and older apply for the senior exemption, the total parcel tax revenue over the course of 8 years would be approximately $31,000. CUHSD has slightly more than 35,000 parcels in the district and the transfer area represents 0.2% of that. Although there will be exemptions to this parcel tax throughout the CUHSD, the transfer area would represent a small percentage of the overall income of the district’s parcel tax.

Using the same assumption used for the CUHSD parcel tax, if the transfer is approved, LGUSD would gain approximately $82,000 to $102,000 and LGSJUHSD would gain approximately $4,600 to $5,700.

Assessed Valuation
The Santa Clara County Assessor’s Office reported on June 18, 2015 that assessed valuation of residential and commercial properties in Santa Clara County have increased for the third straight year for every city. The current assessed valuation of each of the affected school districts is illustrated in Table 15.
Table 15. Total Assessed Valuation of Affected Districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Assessed Valuation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USD</td>
<td>$7,710,465,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUHSD</td>
<td>$37,494,989,635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGUSD</td>
<td>$9,826,366,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGSJUHSD</td>
<td>$19,542,660,350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The current assessed valuation of the territory proposed for transfer is $109.3 million and represents 1.0% of the total assessed valuation of USD, 0.004% of CUHSD, and 1.1% of LGUSD and 0.56% of LGSJUHSD.

The study team recommends that Criterion 9 is met.

10.0 CRITERION 10
Any other criteria as the board (i.e. State Board or Education) may, by regulation, prescribe.

No other criteria were considered.

11.0 ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION
The County Committee can give additional consideration to information that may not fall within one of the nine criteria evaluated above. One issue the County Committee may use for approving/disapproving the proposed territory transfer is safety concerns. Petitioners have stated in their initial request and at the public hearings that safety and travel to USD schools are concerns. Petitioners have included the following concerns for safety:

- Shortest route to Union schools heads into the morning sun on the way to school and the setting sun in the afternoon;
- The shortest route to Union schools includes 11 blind turns;
- The intersection at Hicks and Camden is dangerous and is often monitored by the police due to drivers running red lights;
- The intersections of Blossom Hill and Harwood, Blossom Hill and Leigh, and Union Avenue and Los Gatos-Almaden are busy intersections;
- Hicks Road near Camden Avenue is prone to seasonal flooding.

As observed by COE staff on June 3, 2015, Blossom Hill, Camden, and Leigh are all major thoroughfares connecting the area proposed for transfer to USD schools. Traffic volume is higher in the mornings and corresponds with school start times. Although not ideal driving conditions, the drive to school via these roads is not unique to students in USD and CUHSD (see photographs of road conditions in Appendix A).
It is unlikely that students in the area proposed for transfer would walk or ride bikes to schools in any of the affected districts due to the need to travel down and up Santa Rosa Drive which has a steep incline and also due to Shannon Road which has low visibility and no sidewalks in either direction. However, travel to LGUSD and LGSJUHSD does avoid the busier intersections on Blossom Hill, Camden, and Leigh and distances are shorter as discussed under Criterion 2.

12.0 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

Public Resources Code Section 21000 requires that public agencies review and document the environmental implications of their activities and actions. An activity or “project” under Public Resources Code Section 21065 is defined as follows:

“Project” means an activity which may cause either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and which is any of the following:

(a) An activity directly undertaken by any public agency.
(b) An activity undertaken by a person which is supported, in whole or in part, through contracts, grants, subsidies, loans, or other forms of assistance from one or more public agencies.
(c) An activity that involves the issuance to a person of a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use by one or more public agencies.

The petition to transfer property was filed with the Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization, and they are therefore considered the lead agency for CEQA issues. A Notice of Exemption will be submitted to the County Clerk of Santa Clara County and the California State Clearinghouse if the project is approved. See Appendix H for CEQA documents.

CONCLUSIONS

The nine criteria discussed in Sections 1.0 through 9.0 represent minimum criteria (Hamilton v. State Board of Education, [1981] 117 Cal.App.3d 132; Cal.Rptr. 748) that the County Committee is required to examine prior to approving/disapproving a request to transfer territory from one school district to another. The study team has analyzed the nine criteria and found that each has been met with the exception of criteria 6 and 7. However, if the County Committee determines that all nine conditions are substantially met, it has the discretion, but not the obligation, to approve the proposal. If all nine criteria are found to be met by the County Committee, they may choose to approve the proposed transfer if a compelling reason exists for the transfer or, conversely, may choose not to approve the transfer if a compelling reason exists not to approve it.
PETITION TO TRANSFER TERRITORY

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: THIS PETITION MAY BE CIRCULATED BY A PAID SIGNATURE GATHERER OR A VOLUNTEER. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK.

Pursuant to California Education Code section 35700 (a), we the undersigned registered and qualified electors in the territory of the Union School District(s) petition for the transfer of territory from the Union School District(s) with the corresponding area of the Leigh High School District(s) to Los Gatos School District(s) and the corresponding area of the Los Gatos High School District(s)

Transfer of homes in the eastern part of the Santa Rosa neighborhood would like to petition for a Territory Transfer based on concerns for our children’s safety and our strong sense of identity with residents on adjoining streets and the greater Los Gatos community. Detailed in the full petition are responses to all nine points as described in EC 35753.

Chief petitioners for the purpose of receiving notices and so forth are:
1. Susan Feland, 104 Madera Court, Los Gatos, CA 95032
2. Mary Jansing Balgooyen, 105 Madera Court, Los Gatos, CA 95032
3. Phil Wright, 119 Madera Court, Los Gatos, CA 95032
4. Donna Wright, 119 Madera Court, Los Gatos, CA 95032

The map of districts and inset map of parcels to be transferred in the Santa Rosa neighborhood are below. The outlined area is the eastern part of the Santa Rosa neighborhood to be transferred.

Map of Districts
Request for District Transfer for Homes in the Eastern part of the Santa Rosa neighborhood – Alta Vista

Petitioner’s Statement
Contents

Introduction
Safety
Community
  Criteria #1 – Number of Pupils
  Criteria #2 – Community Identity
    A. and B. Isolation and Geography
    C. Distance from Social Centers
    D. Distance between School Centers
    E. Topography
    F. Weather
    G. Community, school, social ties and other circumstances peculiar to the area
    H. Criteria #2 – Additional Concern: Safety
    I. Access to Blossom Hill Elementary
    J. Access to Middle School
    K. Access to High School
    L. Summary
  Criteria #3 – Division of Property
  Criteria #4 – Ethnic Segregation
  Criteria #5 – Increased costs to the state
  Criteria #6 – No significant disruption to the educational programs
  Criteria #7 – Reorganization will not result in a significant increase in housing costs.
  Criteria #8 - Reorganization will not result in a significant increase in property values
  Criteria #9 – Districts Financial Impact
Additional Point – Precedent of surrounding neighborhoods along Shannon Road are included in the Los Gatos school district.

Exhibits

Exhibit 1: Map of districts, and inset map of parcels to be transferred in the Santa Rosa neighborhood
Exhibit 2: Organizations, events and businesses patronized in Los Gatos
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February 6, 2015

County Committee on School District Organization
Santa Clara County Office of Education
1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95131-2304

Subject: Transfer of homes in the eastern part of the Santa Rosa neighborhood would like to petition for a Territory Transfer based on concerns for our children’s safety and our strong sense of identity with residents on adjoining streets and the greater Los Gatos community. The petition includes the 59 parcels indicated in Exhibit 1.

We believe that our request (supported by the facts summarized in this petition) will generally be negligible with regard to all of the districts involved, as well as the State and will only have a minimal financial impact on the Union districts. However, the approval of the transfer will have a significant beneficial impact on the safety of our children and our neighborhood’s sense of community.

Our request is based on two compelling primary factors: safety and sense of community. Contained in this petition are responses to all nine points as described in EC 35753.

Safety

The major concern of our neighborhood is the safety of our children traveling to and from school. As our children reach elementary, middle, and high school age, they must get to school by bike or car. The routes to Noddin Elementary, Union Middle School and Leigh High School are major traffic arteries, heavily traveled by commuter and construction traffic and present unnecessary and dangerous risk to our children. Additionally, there are other characteristics that affect safety. For example, the shortest route to these schools is very narrow and windy, including 11 blind turns, 3-4 major intersections on 2-3 lane roads, and a substantially high accident rate.

In contrast, the routes to Blossom Hill Elementary, Fisher Middle School and Los Gatos High School are significantly safer by utilizing quiet back streets of Los Gatos, biking lanes and sidewalks along Shannon and Los Gatos Boulevard. This route travels west on Shannon Road from Santa Rosa Drive and is much less windy. This route to the Los Gatos schools is also made safer with crossing guards and traffic lights at the Los Gatos Boulevard intersection with Shannon Road, the only large street that must be crossed en route to the Middle School and High School. The commute times to the Los Gatos schools are significantly shorter than the commute times to the Union District schools. It takes almost half the time to drive to Blossom Hill
Elementary and Fisher Middle School versus to the schools in the Union School district.

Community

The members of our community, who are also members of the town of Los Gatos, share a very strong sense of community identity with our neighbors on adjoining streets and with the greater Los Gatos community. We do this through social and association ties within the Los Gatos community and through our daily activities. Most of us have lived and/or worked in Los Gatos for many years and have become involved in activities which directly benefit the Los Gatos community. Inclusion of our residences in the Los Gatos school districts would remove awkward and isolating division within the neighborhood and align the school districts with traffic patterns and community involvement patterns.

A detailed list of associations and community-based activities are presented in Exhibit 2. Many of these activities revolve around our children’s school, sports, dance, holiday, religious, and recreational activities. In addition to children-oriented activities, we are involved in Los Gatos community and business activities. Again, we include in our exhibit many examples of such participation.

A major factor in our community identity stems from the fact that the shortest road exiting our neighborhood leads to the Town of Los Gatos. Our neighborhood is considered Los Gatos and our homes are considered residents in the Town of Los Gatos, which we access by going west on Shannon Road, to Los Gatos Boulevard. For the Santa Rosa homes, the Los Gatos Post Office, Community Center, Library and all other community services in Los Gatos are closer than any others in the region. In fact, the Santa Rosa neighborhood homes access the Los Gatos Post Office and other city offices. The Library is especially important for the children because currently our kids are given assignments to research at their local library. Since many of the Union School District students go to the San Jose libraries, the Santa Rosa neighborhood kids find it difficult to carpool or collaborate with their classmates because they are all not accessing the same resources.

The alternative route from the Santa Rosa neighborhood to access the San Jose community resources heads east on Shannon Road, to Hicks Road and then spills out on Camden Avenue. This outlet brings us to another part of the Bay Area, which is not considered Los Gatos, but instead within the San Jose City Limit. The Santa Rosa houses are not considered residents in any of the San Jose communities of Almaden or Cambria, since we fall outside the San Jose City Limit boundary lines. For this reason, our neighborhood has a very strong identity and involvement in the Los Gatos community and inclusion within its school boundaries would allow us to participate more
effectively and formalize the linkage between the neighborhood and the Los Gatos community.

In summary, we believe that according to criteria in EC 35753:
- The number of pupils in each district will continue to be adequate.
- The districts will be organized on the basis of a substantial community identity.
- There will be no impact on the division of property and facilities between the districts.
- The reorganization of our racially and ethnically diverse neighborhoods will not promote racial or ethnic discrimination or segregation.
- The state will not have increased costs.
- Educational programs will not be disrupted.
- School facilities costs will not be affected.
- The impact on property values is not a consideration in our petition and, though it must be evaluated as part of the transfer process, we wish to make it clear that our petition is based on safety and a sense of community.
- The proposed transfer will not cause a substantial negative fiscal effect on any affected districts.
- Other considerations: There is a precedent of the areas surrounding our neighborhood to already be included in the Los Gatos school district. The neighborhood directly adjacent to the Santa Rosa neighborhood, on Sierra Azule, shares Santa Rosa Drive as the access road, yet is in the Los Gatos School District. As a result, in addition to commuting safety issues, there is no ability to share carpooling with these immediate neighbors. The neighborhood to the southeast of the Santa Rosa neighborhood, reached by traveling east on Shannon Road, and then onto Hicks Road, south onto Camden Road and then west onto Gualalupe Mines Road in the Guadalupe Mines area is in the Los Gatos School District. In addition, the neighborhood to the east of the Santa Rosa neighborhood traveling east along Shannon Road, called the Shannon Oaks neighborhood, is also in the Los Gatos School District. (See Exhibit 11).

Criteria #1 – Number of Pupils
Impact on the Union School District is expected to be minimal. There are currently 5 children enrolled in the Union School District, all of them in Noddin Elementary. This number of students will not significantly impact either School District. In fact, the transfer will provide a counterweight to the recent trend of increasing enrollment in the Union School District.

Criteria #2 – Community Identity
The California Code of Regulations Title 5 Section 18573 describes criteria for Reorganization of School Districts, the paragraph (a)(2) states: “To determine whether the new district is organized on the basis of substantial community identity, the following criteria should be considered:

(A) Isolation  
(B) Geography  
(C) Distance from Social Centers  
(D) Distance between school centers  
(E) Topography  
(F) Weather  
(G) Community, school, social ties, and other circumstances peculiar to the area"

Our request is to be aligned with the Los Gatos School Districts meets these criteria.

(A) and (B) Isolation and Geography  
Our streets border the Los Gatos School Districts, as shown in Exhibit 1. The boundary line between districts arbitrarily juts around the eastern part of the Santa Rosa community, likely due to historical reasons that have not been updated. When the development was planned over 30 years ago, there was originally an access road, Harwood Road. This road would have easily provided access for the neighborhood to the Union School District. However, many years ago, this road was blocked to all through traffic and is not accessible, leaving only one way to enter and exit the Santa Rosa community - from Santa Rosa Drive, off of Shannon Road. Unfortunately, when Harwood Road was closed, the boundaries for the school district were never adjusted accordingly and still stand today. In fact, Google Maps still mistakenly shows access through Harwood, which is incorrect. This road is completely blocked off to any vehicles. Today’s boundary line does not reflect any natural geographic or topographic boundaries and in fact, contributes to a sense of community isolation (refer to Exhibit 1). The line does not represent the changes of the neighborhood, the community, or the actual traffic patterns over the past decades, after the Harwood Road was closed. Instead, it has led to atypical isolation.

We are not fully accepted into the adjoining neighborhood in the Los Gatos district because we are not in the Los Gatos School district. As a result, our children will not have opportunities to meet neighborhood children in school, or create and strengthen social ties within the adjacent neighborhood. Existing ties with children in the neighborhood may be weakened due to attending different schools. A few examples should help to illustrate the situation:
- Our isolation results in our children playing on sports teams with an inconsistent mix of children since some sports teams follow school district boundaries while others follow the more natural neighborhood boundaries. A specific example of this is that the Little League Baseball League forms teams only according to school districts. As a result, this excludes our Los Gatos neighborhood from playing with our town team.
- Our isolation limits opportunities for our children to carpool with other children's families to school and community events.
- Our isolation limits the ability of our families to get to better know fellow Los Gatos community members met in daily activities, religious programs, community events, and recreational activities.

Unfortunately, we are also not fully accepted into the adjoining neighborhood in the Union School district because we have no traffic outlets into that neighborhood. Thus, our daily activities do not bring us into contact with the Union School district neighborhood.

Approving this petition would serve to end our isolation by making us fully-fledged members of the neighborhood.

(C) Distance from Social Centers

We participate in Los Gatos civic, social, cultural, and athletic activities. We attend Los Gatos churches, synagogues, temples and Los Gatos recreation department activities. Los Gatos social centers are extremely close and safely accessible to both adults and children.

The key factor in all the points below on distance from social centers is that virtually all the Los Gatos centers are up to 4 miles away, to include the Los Gatos library, farmers market, Recreation Department and downtown. All of these places are important components for our neighborhood to have a sense of community identity. By contrast, the distances to comparable San Jose social centers are shown in Table 1 below. Distances are based on a starting point of the intersection of Madera Court and Santa Rosa Drive.

Exhibit 3 shows the disparity of distances on a map to comparable social centers between those in Los Gatos and the closest alternative locations in San Jose. It should be clear that proximity to social centers plays a strong part in our neighborhood’s identification with the Los Gatos community.

Table 1: Distances from neighborhood to community centers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Los Gatos</th>
<th>Distance (miles)</th>
<th>San Jose/Union</th>
<th>Distance (miles)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Shannon Fire</td>
<td>2.5 miles</td>
<td>San Jose Fire</td>
<td>4.2 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station</td>
<td></td>
<td>Department</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16565 Shannon Rd., Los Gatos, CA</td>
<td>Station 9 3410 Ross Ave</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Gatos Community Center 266 N Santa Cruz Ave, Los Gatos, CA 95030</td>
<td>Camden Community Center 3369 Union Ave, San Jose, CA 95124</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3 miles</td>
<td>5.7 miles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blossom Hill Elementary 16400 Blossom Hill Rd, Los Gatos, CA 95032</td>
<td>Noddin Elementary 1755 Gilda Way, San Jose, CA 95124</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5 miles</td>
<td>4.5 miles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisher Middle School 19195 Fisher Ave Los Gatos, CA 95032</td>
<td>Union Middle School 2130 Los Gatos Almaden Road, San Jose CA 950124</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 miles</td>
<td>5.3 miles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additionally, there are many safety issues associated with children traveling these distances.

The members of our neighborhood are active and substantial participants in the Los Gatos community based on the proximity and safety of access to Los Gatos social centers that contribute to our identification with the Los Gatos community. Below are only a few examples of our neighborhood's involvement and use of nearby social centers (names and dates are available on request) and demonstrate clear, measurable, and substantial community involvement and sense of identity.

By contrast members of our neighborhood have no involvement with San Jose due to the distances, safety and geographic issues, nor has the city of San Jose made efforts to include us in San Jose activities.

(D) Distance between School Centers
The distances from our neighborhood to the Blossom Hill Elementary School and Fisher Middle School are significantly shorter and safer than the distance to Noddin Elementary and Union Middle School. The close proximity of these schools promotes a closer community identity and enhances opportunities for involvement in school and social activities. We also associate access to the downtown Los Gatos and community center as an important component of the academic experience. Unfortunately, if our children are in the Union
School District, they will not have easy access to friends, teammates, and community partners.

(E) Topography
Topography is defined as “the detailed mapping or description of the features of a relatively small area, district, or locality” (Random House Dictionary of the English Language, College Edition, 1963). There are several reasons related to the neighborhood’s natural topography that support inclusion in the Los Gatos School Districts.

- Our neighborhood is isolated from the Union community by the natural geography and main access road of Shannon Road.
- There are aforementioned topographic features that separate our neighborhood from the Los Gatos community. In fact, the dividing line of School Districts actually contributes to a feeling of isolation (discussed in more detail in Section G).
- Our neighborhood members are active leaders in the Los Gatos Community. Most recently, our neighbor was featured in the Los Gatos Magazine for a start up business he is leading from the historic Los Gatos Opera House (published Dec 31, 2014). Another neighbor leads a competitive Bocce Ball team at the Campo di Bocce Club in Los Gatos, while another neighbor coaches a recreational soccer team in the Los Gatos United Soccer Club. Many of our neighbors also support local Los Gatos charities and institutions with significant philanthropic support.

We believe there is substantial evidence that community identity with Los Gatos is supported by our neighborhood’s topography. In fact, the same topography inhibits a sense of community with the San Jose community primarily due to distances and safety.

(F) Weather
There are no major weather differences.

(H) Community, school, social ties, and other circumstances peculiar to the area.
The members of our community, who are also members of the Town of Los Gatos, share a very strong sense of community identity with Los Gatos. We do this through social and association ties within the Los Gatos community. Most of us have lived and/or worked in Los Gatos for many years and have become involved in activities which directly benefit the Los Gatos community. A detailed list of community-based activities is presented in Exhibit 2.

It is also important to mention that our children have established close social ties with other children in the Los Gatos School Districts through community
activities and a disruption to those relationships would be detrimental. Unfortunately, the outdated boundary of the School District no longer reflects community or safety and serves to isolate our neighborhood from our community. Our children, who are active participants in the Los Gatos community, wish to become full-fledged members with the same ability to attend Los Gatos schools with their community partners and friends.

In summary, we can demonstrate by our participation in the Los Gatos community activities that we actively and positively engage with the Los Gatos community. Since we are already members of the Town of Los Gatos and we have demonstrated that we are members of the Los Gatos community, we simply wish to have our school boundaries updated and formalized for the safety and well-being of our children. Denial of the Territory Transfer would cause a continued sense of social isolation and increased emotional stress for both adults and children.

Criteria #2 – Additional Concern: Safety
Another major concern and motivation for this boundary change request is the safety of our children. As our children reach elementary, middle school and high school age, they often must ride bicycles or cars to school. The routes they would have to travel to Noddin Elementary, Union Middle School, and Leigh High School are major traffic arteries, heavily traveled by commuter and construction traffic, and are inherently unsafe, offering no protection for our children who must, at key portions of these busy roads, share the road with traffic. We consider this unreasonable and unnecessarily dangerous.

All of the routes our children must use from elementary through high school ages to get access to Union schools put our children at a significantly greater risk of injury from vehicular accident than that of Los Gatos Schools. The access to Noddin, Union, and Leigh are from Blossom Hill, Union Boulevard, and Los Gatos Almaden Road, which are all 2-3 lane, heavily travelled roads. On the contrary, access to the Los Gatos schools avoids crossing major intersections and follows bike lanes and sidewalks from small roads. Additionally, we will present other factors that significantly contribute to the dangers inherent in attending schools in the Union School Districts.

Access to Noddin Elementary
The route to Noddin Elementary goes east on Shannon and Hicks Road, which have 11 blind turns and spill out onto Camden Avenue, which is a 4 lane major access road. From Camden, there is a major intersection at Camden and Blossom Hill followed by another major intersection at Blossom Hill and Harwood Road.
Alternatively, access to Blossom Hill Elementary is significantly safer. Students would travel along a safer passage of Shannon Road, then turn right on a small road and go for a block on a road called Cherry Blossom Lane.

Access to Union Middle School
The route to Union Middle School goes east on Shannon and Hicks Road, which have 11 blind turns and spill out onto Camden Avenue, which is a 4 lane major access road. From Camden, there is a major intersection at Camden and Blossom Hill followed by another major intersection at Blossom Hill and Harwood Road. To get to Union Middle School, you must go through the next major intersection of Blossom Hill and Leigh Avenue, and then another busy intersection of Blossom Hill and Union Boulevard, followed by a final intersection of Union Boulevard and Los Gatos Almaden Road. Students must finally go a final block with significant traffic passage along the busy road of Los Gatos Almaden until they get to the middle school.

Alternatively, access to Fisher Middle School is significantly safer. Students would travel along a safer passage of Shannon Road, cross Los Gatos Boulevard with the help of a crossing guard and then go one more short block on the back-road street of Roberts Ave.

Access to Leigh High School
The route to Leigh High School goes east on Shannon and Hicks Road, which have 11 blind turns and spill out onto Camden Avenue, which is a 4 lane major access road. From Camden, there is a major intersection at Camden and Blossom Hill followed by another major intersection at Blossom Hill and Harwood Road. To get to Leigh High School, you must turn at the next major intersection of Blossom Hill and Leigh Avenue, followed by the of final intersection of Leigh Avenue and Los Gatos Almaden Road.

Alternatively, access to Los Gatos High School is significantly safer. Students would travel along a safer west passage of Shannon Road, cross Los Gatos Boulevard with the help of a crossing guard and then continue on Los Gatos Boulevard, which has bike lanes and sidewalks, until they arrive at the High School.

Summary
In summary, we believe that the more dangerous, eastern leg of Shannon Road most frequently taken to the Union School District, crossing 4 lane roads filled with traffic density, navigating challenging intersections, and going the further distances affect student safety and provides a compelling reason to approve the transfer of the territory.

Criteria #3 – Division of Property
The proposal will result in an equitable division of property and facilities aligning with the intent of the districts.
Criteria #4 - Ethnic Segregation
The reorganization of our racially and ethnically diverse neighborhood will not promote racial and ethnic discrimination or segregation. Our neighborhood represents a diverse mix of backgrounds including: Asians, Middle Eastern, Caucasian, Latin American, Western European, Eastern European, and Indian. The diversity represented here is not dissimilar to the makeup of the School District impacted by this reorganization.

Criteria #5 – Increased costs to the state
Based on previous studies in similar neighborhoods (SOFR¹ January 95), we do not believe that there will be any significant increased cost to the state and any increase will be substantially below the “10% generally used by the state to determine significant cost” (SOF Jan 95, p.10)

Criteria #6 – No significant disruption to educational programs
Based on previous studies in similar neighborhoods (SOFR¹ January 95), we do not believe that the loss of a small number (5) of public school students by the Union School District would have a significant effect on the educational programs of these districts.

Criteria #7 – Reorganization will not result in significant increase in school housing costs.

Based on previous studies in similar neighborhoods (SOFR 95) we do not believe that the proposed reorganization will result in any increase in school facilities costs.

Criteria #8 – Proposed reorganization is not primarily designed to result in a significant increase in property values
As previously mentioned, the motivation for the request of a transfer of territory is for the safety of our children in combination with our sense of community identity.

Criteria #9 – Districts Financial Impact
Based on previous studies of similar neighborhoods, we believe that there will be no negative financial impacts of the territory transfer.

Additional Point – Precedent of surrounding neighborhoods along Shannon Road are included in the Los Gatos school district. An important consideration and precedent, is that the surrounding neighborhoods to Santa Rosa along Shannon Road are within the Los Gatos School District (houses on Sierra Azule, Shannon Oaks and Guadalupe Mines). The Santa Rosa neighborhood shares the same access road (Santa Rosa Rd)

¹ SOFR is the Sobey Oaks Feasibility Report
as Sierra Azule, so it this seems reasonable that all the houses in this area would go to the same schools. In addition, the Shannon Oaks neighborhood to the east of Santa Rosa and the neighborhood located along the eastern passage of Shannon Road, at the end of Hicks Ave/Camden in the Guadalupe Mines community is in the Los Gatos School District, emphasizing the reason and logic for our neighborhood to also be within the Los Gatos School District.
Exhibit 1: Map of districts, and inset map of parcels to be transferred in the Santa Rosa neighborhood.

The outlined area is the eastern part of the Santa Rosa neighborhood to be transferred.
Exhibit 1 (Cont): Parcel Map 2
Note: The access road to Harwood Road is blocked so there is no way to enter or exit the Santa Rosa neighborhood from the North.

Exhibit 2: Organizations, events and businesses patronized in Los Gatos (All are not included)

Organizations
St. Mary’s Catholic Church
Calvary Church
Presbyterian Church – Los Gatos
Los Gatos Methodist
Saint Lukes Episcopal Church
Congregation Shir Hadash
Jewbilee at Los Gatos JCC
Chabad of San Jose

Businesses patronized
Safeway (Santa Cruz Ave)
Los Gatos School of Music
Rockin’ Kidz Music
Los Gatos Optometric Vision
Los Gatos Brewing Company
Three Degrees
Forbes Mill Steakhouse
Campo Di Bocce
Double D’s Sports Grille
California Café and Restaurant
Noah’s Bagels
Lunardi’s (Los Gatos Blvd)
Whole Foods (Los Gatos Blvd)
Los Gatos Café
Manresa
The Lexington House
Palacio Restaurant
Purple Onion Café and Catering
Restaurant Sent Sovi
Steamers
Viva! Primavera

Parks and Recreation
Vasona County Park
Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad, Oak Meadow Park
Bill Mason Carousel, Oak Meadow Park
History Museum of Los Gatos
Los Gatos Creek Trail
Los Gatos Mountain Trails
Lexington Reservoir
Art Museum of Los Gatos
Blossom Hill Park
Heintz Open Space
Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve
Los Gatos Historic Commercial District
Los Gatos/Saratoga Recreation: Various Lessons

Events
Shakespeare in the Park, Vasona
Vasona Light Display
Los Gatos Downtown Farmer’s Market
Music in the Park
Jazz on the Plazz
Exhibit 3: Map of schools and social centers
1. East Santa Rosa Petition Area
2. Los Gatos Library and Park
3. Los Gatos Fire Department
4. Blossom Hill Elementary
5. Fisher Middle School
6. Los Gatos High School
7. Noddin Elementary
8. Union Middle School
9. Leigh High School
10. Shannon Road – East Leg
11. Shannon Road – West Leg

Exhibit 4: A safe route to Blossom Hill Elementary and Fisher Middle School in Los Gatos following the western branch of Shannon Road and avoiding major intersections compared to the route to Noddin Elementary and Union Middle School.

Locations
1. East Santa Rosa Petition Area
2. Blossom Hill Elementary
3. Fisher Middle School
4. Noddin Elementary
5. Union Middle School

Intersections and Challenges:
Eastern Leg of Shannon Road
A. Shannon Road/Hicks Road
B. Venture Christian Church Traffic
C. Hicks Road/Camden Ave
D. Camden Ave/Blossom Hill Road
E. Blossom Hill Road/Harwood Road
F. Blossom Hill Road/Union Ave
G. Union Ave/Los Gatos Almaden Road

Western Leg of Shannon Road
H. Shannon Road/Los Gatos Blvd
The route to Blossom Hill Elementary (2) starts in the eastern part of Santa Rosa (1) is one block from the western leg of Shannon Road.

The route to Fisher Middle School (3) follows the western leg of Shannon Road, crosses Los Gatos Blvd (H) and finishes after two blocks on a small road.

The route to Noddin Elementary (4) follows the eastern leg of Shannon Road, turns on Hicks Road (A), passes another private school Venture Christian (B), crosses a busy intersection of Hicks Road/Camden Ave (C), crosses a busy intersection of Camden Ave/Blossom Hill, continues on Blossom Hill Road and crosses a busy intersection of Blossom Hill/Harwood Road (E).

The route to Union Middle School (5) follows the eastern leg of Shannon Road, turns on Hicks Road (A), passes another private school Venture Christian (B), crosses a busy intersection of Hicks Road/Camden Ave (C), crosses a busy intersection of Camden Ave/Blossom Hill (D), continues on Blossom Hill Road, crosses a busy intersection of Blossom Hill/Harwood Road (E), crosses a busy intersection of Blossom Hill/Union Ave (F), continues on Union Ave, crosses a busy intersection of Union Ave/Los Gatos Almaden Road (G).
Exhibit 5: Looking East along Shannon Road towards Union Schools (11 blind turns and numerous accidents over past year)

Exhibit 6: Intersection of Hicks Road and Camden along the route to Union Schools

Exhibit 7: Major intersection of Blossom Hill and Harwood along the route to Union Schools. It is the site of major accidents.

Exhibit 8: Major intersection of Blossom Hill and Leigh Ave along the route to Union Schools. It is the site of major accidents.
Exhibit 9: Major intersection of Union Ave and Los Gatos Saratoga along the route to Union Schools. It is the site of major accidents.

Exhibit 10: Looking West along Shannon Road towards Los Gatos: road is less windy with fewer blind turns and leads straight to the Los Gatos School District.
Exhibit 11: Neighborhoods surrounding the East Santa Rosa Neighborhood along Shannon Road already in the Los Gatos School District. Note the neighborhoods of Sierra Azule, Shannon Oaks and Guadalupe all travel west on Shannon Road to reach Los Gatos schools, while East Santa Rosa neighborhood (adjacent to Sierra Azule and west of Shannon Oaks and Guadalupe Mines), has to travel east on the windy portion of Shannon Road to reach Union District Schools.
APPENDIX B
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Address</th>
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<td>431 Santa Rosa Dr</td>
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February 11, 2015

Karen Stapf Walters, Executive Director,
California State Board of Education
1430 N Street, Suite #5111
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Walters:

The Santa Clara County Office of Education has validated a request to transfer 59 parcels from the Union and Campbell Union High School Districts to the Los Gatos Union and Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union School Districts. A copy of the request, verification of signatures, and maps of the property proposed for transfer are enclosed. I am providing the State Board of Education notice of this valid request pursuant to Education Code Section 35704.

Please contact Suzanne Carrig at (408) 453-6869 if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

\[Signature\]
Jon R. Gundry
County Superintendent of Schools

cc: Dr. Jacqueline Horejs, Superintendent, Union School District
Patrick Gaffney, Superintendent, Campbell Union High School District
Dr. Diana Abbati, Superintendent, Los Gatos Union School District
Bob Mistele, Superintendent, Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District
Larry Shirey, School Fiscal Services Division, California Department of Education
County Committee Members
February 10, 2015

Ms. Suzanne Carrig
Administrative Program and Evaluation Specialist
Santa Clara County Office of Education
1290 Ridder Park Dr
San Jose, CA 95131-2398


Dear Ms. Carrig:

We have received a total of 112 signatures, submitted on February 8, 2015. Pursuant to Education Code 35704 and Elections Code 105, in order to certify the petition, 25% or more of the registered voters in the area proposed for transfer must have signed the petition. The number of registered voters for the proposed territory is 110, therefore 27.5 signatures must be valid for the petition to qualify.

We verified 100% of the signatures submitted using petition guidelines issued by the California Secretary of State. Of the 112 signatures verified, 91 were found to be valid signatures. The number of valid signatures is greater than the 25% requirement, therefore this petition has passed.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact me at (408) 282-3051.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Maggie Smith
Election Division Coordinator
Voter Registration Division
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Not Completed by Signer: 4
Registered at Different Address: 3
PETITION TO TRANSFER TERRITORY
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: THIS PETITION MAY BE CIRCULATED BY A PAID SIGNATURE GATHERER OR A VOLUNTEER. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK.

Pursuant to California Education Code section 35700 (a), we the undersigned registered and qualified electors in the territory of the Union School District(s) petition for the transfer of territory from the Union School District(s) with the corresponding area of the Leigh High School District(s) to Los Gatos School District(s) and the corresponding area of the Los Gatos High School District(s).

Transfer of homes in the eastern part of the Santa Rosa neighborhood would like to petition for a Territory Transfer based on concerns for our children's safety and our strong sense of identity with residents on adjoining streets and the greater Los Gatos community. Detailed in the full petition are responses to all nine points as described in EC 35753.

Chief petitioners for the purpose of receiving notices and so forth are:
1. Susan Peland, 104 Madera Court, Los Gatos, CA 95032
2. Mary Jansing Balgooyen, 105 Madera Court, Los Gatos, CA 95032
3. Phil Wright, 119 Madera Court, Los Gatos, CA 95032
4. Donna Wright, 119 Madera Court, Los Gatos, CA 95032

The map of districts and inset map of parcels to be transferred in the Santa Rosa neighborhood are below. The outlined area is the eastern part of the Santa Rosa neighborhood to be transferred.

Map of Districts
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ON:

A PROPOSED TRANSFER OF TERRITORY
FROM
UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT AND
CAMPBELL UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
TO
LOS GATOS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT AND
LOS GATOS-SARATOGA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization will conduct a public hearing to obtain public response to a request to transfer 59 parcels from Union School District and Campbell Union High School District to Los Gatos Union School District and Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District.

Public hearings will be held at the following locations and times:

Tuesday March 31, 2015 5:00 p.m.
Union School District – Board Room
5175 Union Ave
San Jose 95124

For more information regarding the process and public hearings, contact Suzanne Carrig at (408) 453-6869.
NOTICE OF
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
PUBLIC HEARING

ON:

A PROPOSED TRANSFER OF TERRITORY
FROM
CAMPBELL UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT AND
CAMPBELL UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
TO
SARATOGA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT AND
LOS GATOS-SARATOGA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Public Resources Code Section 21000 requires that public agencies review and document the environmental implications of their activities and actions. Under Public Resources Code Section 21065 school district reorganization is considered a project and therefore is subject to review.

The Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization will conduct two public hearings to obtain public response to a request to transfer 10 parcels from Campbell Union School District and Campbell Union High School District to Saratoga Union School District and Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District.

Public hearings will be held at the following locations and times:

Monday, June 8, 2015  4:00 p.m.
Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District – Board Room
17421 Farley Road, West
Los Gatos  95030

Monday, June 8, 2015  6:00 p.m.
Campbell Union High School District – Board Room
3235 Union Ave
San Jose  95124

For more information regarding the above issues, contact Suzanne Carrig at (408) 453-6869
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ON:

A PROPOSED TRANSFER OF TERRITORY
FROM
UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT AND
CAMPBELL UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
TO
LOS GATOS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT AND
LOS GATOS-SARATOGA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization will conduct the second of two public hearings to obtain public response to a request to transfer 59 parcels from Union School District and Campbell Union High School District to Los Gatos Union School District and Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District.

Public hearings will be held at the following location and time:

Tuesday April 21, 2015 5:00 p.m.
Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District – Board Room
17421 Farley Road West
Los Gatos 95030

For more information regarding the process and public hearings, contact Suzanne Carrig at (408) 453-6869.
DESCRIPTION OF PETITION
TO TRANSFER TERRITORY FROM
UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT AND CAMPBELL UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
TO
LOS GATOS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT AND
LOS GATOS-SARATOGA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Education Code Section 35705.5 requires that the County Committee on School District Organization make available to the public and to the governing boards affected by the petition a description of the petition, including:

1. The rights of the employees in the affected districts to continued employment.
2. The revenue limit per unit of average daily attendance for each affected district and the effect of the petition, if approved, on such revenue limit.
3. Whether the districts involved will be governed, in part, by provisions of a city charter and, if so, in what way.
4. Whether the governing boards of any proposed new district will have five or seven members.
5. A description of the territory or districts in which the election, if any, will be held.
6. Where the proposal is to create two or more districts, whether the proposal will be voted on as a single proposition.
7. Whether the governing board of any new district will have trustee areas and, if so, whether the trustees will be elected by only the voters of that trustee area or by voters of the entire district.
8. A description of how the property, obligations, and bonded indebtedness of existing districts will be divided.
9. A description of when the first governing board of any new district will be elected and how terms of office for each new trustee will be determined.

Description of Petition

The proposal requests a transfer of 59 parcels from the Union School District and Campbell Union High School District to the Los Gatos Union School District and the Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District. A map of the territory proposed for transfer with the Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) is attached.

The chief petitioner is:

Susan Feland
104 Madera Ct
Los Gatos, CA 95032
1. **The rights of the employees in the affected districts to continued employment:**

Not applicable to the current proposal. The rights of the employees to continued employment will not be affected by the proposed territory transfer.

2. **The revenue limit per unit of average daily attendance for each affected district and the effect of the petition, if approved, on such revenue limit.**

The territory proposed for transfer has 59 homes and there are currently 11 school-aged children in the area. Each of the affected school districts is basic aid with the exception of Union School District. As of July 1, 2013, “revenue limits” no longer exist as a means of computing school district revenue. To the extent that students reside in the area in the future, funding calculations will be determined by legislative requirements set forth in Assembly Bill 97 (Chapter 47, Statutes of 2013), effect July 1, 2013 (Local Control Funding Formula).

3. **Whether the districts involved will be governed, in part, by provisions of a city charter and, if so, in what way.**

Not applicable to the current petition.

4. **Whether the governing boards of any proposed new district will have five or seven members.**

Not applicable to the current petition.

5. **A description of the territory or districts in which the election, if any, will be held.**

If an election is required, the election area will be the area proposed for transfer. This specification is subject to change pending information obtained in the public hearings [EdC § 35705], completion of the feasibility report [EdC § 35710], and approval of the petition [EdC § 35706].

Pursuant to the provisions of California Education Code section 35710.1, notwithstanding any other provision of law, an election may not be called to vote on a petition to transfer territory if the election area for that petition, as determined pursuant to Section 35732, is uninhabited territory as described in Section 35517.

6. **Where the proposal is to create two or more districts, whether the proposal will be voted on as a single proposition.**

Not applicable to the current petition; the petition does not propose the creation of any new district(s).
7. Whether the governing board of any new district will have trustee areas and, if so, whether the trustees will be elected by only the voters of that trustee area or by voters of the entire district.

Not applicable to the current petition.

8. A description of how the property, obligations, and bonded indebtedness of existing districts will be divided.

The area proposed for transfer contains no public school property or buildings. The plans and recommendations of the County Committee on School District Organization would stipulate the division of any other property, funds or obligations (except bonded indebtedness) affected by the proposed transfer. The County Committee may use any equitable means to divide the property, funds and obligations, including assessed valuation, average daily attendance (ADA), or value and location of property. [EdC §§ 35560, 35736]

If the territory is transferred, it will drop any liability for outstanding bonded indebtedness of the district of which it was formerly a part and assume its proportionate share of the outstanding bonded indebtedness of the district of which it becomes a part. [EdC § 35575]

Provisions for the exchange of property tax revenue are set forth in Revenue and Taxation Code Section 99 (i).

9. A description of when the first governing board of any new district will be elected and how terms of office for each new trustee will be determined.

Not applicable to the current petition; this petition does not propose the creation of any new district(s).
Santa Clara County
Committee on School District Organization
Public Hearing #1
March 31, 2015
5:00 p.m.
Proposed Transfer of Territory from
Union School District and Campbell Union High School District
to
Los Gatos Union School District and Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District

Location: Union School District
5175 Union Ave, San Jose CA

Committee Members Present:
Nejleh Abed
Albert Beltran, Jr.
Bob Benevento
Frank Biehl
Kathleen Sullivan
Mandy Lowell (5:47)

County Office Staff Present:
Suzanne Carrig

Susan Feland, Chief Petitioner:
Ms. Feland made a presentation to the committee on the reasons for the territory transfer request.
PowerPoint presentation is attached.

Frank Biehl, County Committee Member:
Member Biehl asked Ms. Feland why the road was closed and when it was closed.

Ms. Feland:
Ms. Feland stated that she didn’t know the answer but residents of the neighborhood have always remembered that the gate to the road has always been there. Ms. Feland also stated that due to a past accident residents of the area petitioned to have that road closed to traffic due to danger of traffic.

Nejleh Abed, County Committee Chair:
Ms. Abed asked Ms. Feland if the road went all the way through and if it was a paved road.
Ms. Feland:
Ms. Feland stated that the road is paved but that it is closed to through traffic and only open for fire exercises.

Member Frank Biehl:
Asked under whose jurisdiction the closed road falls under.

Ms. Feland:
Ms. Feland stated that she assumed it to be under the jurisdiction of Los Gatos since it’s within the town of Los Gatos.

Chair Nejleh Abed:
Asked when the homes were built. Ms. Feland stated that the homes were built in the 1980’s.

Albert Beltran, Jr., County Committee Member:
Asked if there were any statistics regarding the flooding and traffic issues, how often police are out there.

Ms. Feland:
Ms. Feland stated that the police are out there every weekend, every Sunday and often Saturday nights, and periodically throughout the week.

Stated that she didn’t have any data on the number of days that road is closed but that it probably depends on the year in regards to the flooding. Data on the intersection could be provided if needed.

Bob Benevento, County Committee Member:
• Confirmed that the transfer request consisted of 59 homes.
• Asked if there are only five children total in the area. Ms. Feland stated that there are only five children going to public school. Ms. Feland stated that there are many kids in the neighborhood but that some attend private school.
• Asked if the petitioner knew the average age of the residents (this was unknown).

Chair, Nejleh Abed:
Asked how many total children live in the area.

Ms. Feland:
Believes the number of children is 11.

Suzanne Carrig, Staff:
Stated that the information provided from the district showed six students in K-8, Union School District and 5 students in grades 9-12, Campbell Union High School District.
Chair, Nejleh Abed:  
Asked if these students have any siblings.

Ms. Feland:  
Stated that most of the children going to public schools that she knew had siblings in the public schools as well but could find the data if needed.  

The total number of students was not known but will be provided by petitioners.

Member Frank Biehl:  
Asked staff for clarification of the number of students whether it was 11 enrolled or 11 within the enrollment area. Staff stated it was the number of students enrolled in public school.

Member Bob Benevento:  
Asked if public transportation was provided by either school district. Ms. Feland stated that the families drive the students; no school bus is provided.

Affected Districts

Patrick Gaffney, Superintendent, Campbell Union High School District:  
Mr. Gaffney made the following statements in opposition of the petition:  
- Lives close to the transfer area so familiar with the area  
- CUHSD board adopted a resolution in opposition to the transfer request  
- Request does not meet the criteria in education code – see attached resolution  
- Stated that there are actually on two high school students in the area

Dr. Diana Abbati Superintendent, Los Gatos Union School District:  
Dr. Abbati made the following comments in opposition of the petition:  
- Speaking on behalf of the district, the board, and the community  
- Read from the letter written to the county committee (attached)  
- Stated that Blossom Hill School may not be the home school due to overcrowding and that many new students coming into the district are being redirected to Lexington, the newly built school, which is about 4 miles up the hill  
- LGUSD is experiencing extreme growth and new development – approximately 360 parcels in the next 5-10 years  
- Already experiencing overcrowding in the schools and experiencing growth, trying to mitigate the effects of that

Chair, Nejleh Abed:  
Asked about the district’s new school and if they are at capacity in the new school.
Dr. Abbati:
Stated that the new school is Lexington and is currently at 50% capacity to mitigate the overcrowding at other schools students are being redirected up the mountain to Lexington. There is no bus transportation, only for special education students.

Kathleen Sullivan, County Committee Member:
Asked that if this petition were to be approved, the map that the petitioners presented showing the mileage there could be another four miles added on to that.

Dr. Abbati:
Stated the following:
- That there could be another two to six miles added on to that
- Just because a parent requests a school doesn’t mean that we can honor that due to overcrowding
- Blossom Hill is probably the most impacted school in the district

Dr. Jackie Horejs, Superintendent, Union School District:
Dr. Horejs made the following statements in opposition of the petition:
- Speaking on behalf of the Union board
- A resolution in opposition of the transfer has been drafted and action on the resolution will be taken at the next board meeting
- There is a financial impact to the Union School District if the transfer is approved
- The district closed two schools in 2004 due to the loss of students; further loss of students would impact the district and the loss of assessed valuation would impact the district.
- Union School District is not a basic aid district – ADA funded district, received money from the state
- Agree with the findings of the 1997 Area Wide Study
- Piecemeal approach is not the best solution and the 1997 report attempted to mitigate the number of transfers to districts with multiple municipalities.

Member Albert Beltran:
Asked Dr. Horejs if the district has talked with the town of Los Gatos about opening the gated road.

Dr. Horejs:
Stated that they will reach out

Chair, Nejleh Abed:
Asked Dr. Horejs if any of the closed schools mentioned have since been reopened. Dr. Horejs replied that they have not been reopened.
Registered Speakers

Melanie Hanssen, Resident/Proponent:
- Lived in the neighborhood since 2002
- Has three children
- Currently serve on the Los Gatos Planning Commission
- Family makes it a priority to get involved in the Los Gatos community – served on many boards and organizations
- Involved and committed to Los Gatos but it can be difficult due to different school district
- Little League boundaries are strict like school district boundaries. Los Gatos Little League boundaries are similar to what we’re proposing. The kids in the neighborhood must play with the Los Gatos Little League, not allowed to play in Union School District.
- Boy Scouts – no rules but it is community based. Sons joined but the Los Gatos troop only had Los Gatos school children, tried joining same troop for another son but was told the troop was full and they only consider kids from Blossom Hill School.
- Membership in the Youth Commission have to be resident of Los Gatos or attend Los Gatos schools. There hasn’t been a member from Campbell Union High School District, discussions center around Los Gatos and Los Gatos High School.
- Part of Los Gatos safe routes to school and none of the Union or Campbell Union schools are represented taken aback a few weeks ago when we had a joint town council/school district meeting and only the Los Gatos district were represented along with the town council so she does not believe anything will be done in the future to make the routes safer for Los Gatos residents commuting to Union schools.

Chair, Nejleh Abed:
Asked Ms. Hanssen if, as a member of the Planning Commission, they have ever discussed opening the gated road.

Ms. Hanssen stated that this was not an issue for the Planning Commission and the gate was closed due to a petition by the residents of Harwood road due to traffic concerns.

Isy Goldwasser, Resident/Proponent:
- 12 year resident
- Four children ranging in age from 6 to 16, three are attending private school in Los Gatos
- Wife runs Los Gatos School of Music, Mr. Goldwasser has a business in Los Gats
- 95% of driving is within Los Gatos
- Because neighborhood is not part of the Los Gatos district it’s kind of a no-man’s land and it’s a strange situation
- We are almost Los Gatos but not fully Los Gatos
Kelly Wallace, Resident/Proponent:
- Two children at Noddin Elementary, Kindergarten and 3rd grade
- Drive to the school three times a day and have to drive through three big intersections – dangerous intersections
- There has been flooding on some of the roads; two days when not comfortable driving on those roads
- Understand that there’s crowding in Los Gatos but Union has the same issue
- Driving into the sun is a problem
- There is a significant impact with the division of the neighborhood; the fire road being blocked does impact the neighborhood

Becky Hanson, Los Gatos Resident/Opponent:
- President of the Daves Avenue home and school club
- Safety is an issue for parents
- Shannon Road to any of the Los Gatos schools is not a safe road; there recently was a fatality on that road
- Kids don’t ride their bikes to school
- We try to get kids out of the cars and on safe routes but Shannon Road is not one area currently being looked at
- Lives in downtown Los Gatos and has to travel through five intersections to get to school

Deborah Weinstein, Los Gatos Resident/Opponent:
- President of Los Gatos Education Foundation
- Schools in Los Gatos are overcrowded
- Pressure to raise more money for the schools
- Blossom Hill School is at capacity
- Kids attend Daves but know that there are families who live within the Blossom Hill attendance boundaries and don’t always get to go to Blossom Hill
- Kids would likely have to go to Lexington which is four plus miles up Highway 17
- This transfer is 59 new parcels – the district is already dealing with the North 40 development that could possibly bring 300 or more new parcels

Kim Simon, Los Gatos Resident/Opponent:
- Los Gatos district parent in opposition to the transfer request
- Ended up moving to a busy street in Los Gatos
- Kids can’t walk alone to school, parents walk with them because the road is too busy
- There are always going to be safety issues
- Involved in fund raising, it’s a burden we share in funding. Los Gatos is a basic aid district and there’s only so much money to go around
- Concerned about the precedent this could set, already a burden in Los Gatos
Vickie Brown, Union School Board Member/Parent/Opponent:
- Although a Union board member speaking as a community member, parent, and property owner
- Homeowners in the Alta Vista neighborhood knew the district there were in and it hasn’t changed
- Drove to the area, this is a naturally isolated neighborhood and residents probably chose to live there for that reason; it’s not your average “city living”
- Route to Union schools is probably in better repair than the one to Los Gatos
- Feel the route to Union schools is safer
- Community identity is what you make it. We don’t go to the church closest to us but the one that best suits our needs; identity is really chosen

Lisa Renner, Blossom Hill Parent/Opponent:
- Parent at Blossom Hill, kids are in 3rd and 5th grade
- Live ½ mile from the school and kids can ride their bikes
- Shannon Road has a lot of traffic so most kids don’t walk or ride their bikes
- 59 new homes would put more traffic into the community causing more problems
- Community identity is chosen
- Kids at multiple school sites won’t help community
- Blossom Hill can’t take any more students

Bianca Gruetter, Los Gatos Parent/Opponent:
- Has two girls attending Daves Avenue School
- Live in an isolated neighborhood in Los Gatos
- Los Gatos is growing and there are more kids at the school
- Traffic is an issue; it’s hard to park at Blossom Hill
- Community is what you make of it
- Fire gate – call the County Fire Department and they can help
- Traffic is bad in Los Gatos and on Shannon Road
- 59 additional parcels will change the dynamic of Los Gatos

Emi Eto, Los Gatos Union School Board Member:
- The board talks about overcrowding and new development in Los Gatos at every board meeting
- Lexington School was built to help with the issue of overcrowding
- Shannon Road – wouldn’t encourage anyone to ride bike on it
- The congestion on Los Gatos Boulevard is atrocious
- Understand the desire to come to Los Gatos but so there are so many challenges in the district right now
- The district is the lowest in dollars per children
- Need to help the students we currently have
Unregistered Speakers

Nancy Solomon, Alta Vista Resident/Proponent:
- Has no children in the school district
- Lived in the neighborhood for 20 years
- Walks every day and rides a motorcycle; going east is a scary and windy road
- If the issue is child safety then that’s a concern

The public hearing ended at 6:03 p.m.
Santa Clara County
Committee on School District Organization
Public Hearing #2
April 21, 2015
5:00 p.m.
Proposed Transfer of Territory from
Union School District and Campbell Union High School District
to
Los Gatos Union School District and Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District

Location: Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District
17421 Farley Road West, Los Gatos CA

Committee Members Present:
Nejleh Abed
Albert Beltran, Jr.
Frank Biehl
Mandy Lowell

County Office Staff Present:
Suzanne Carrig

Susan Feland, Chief Petitioner:
Ms. Feland made a presentation to the committee on the reasons for the territory transfer request.
PowerPoint presentation is attached.

Affected Districts

Dr. Diana Abbati Superintendent, Los Gatos Union School District:
Dr. Abbati made the following comments in opposition to the petition:
- Since the first public hearing the Los Gatos Board has taken action on two items – on April 14th the Board unanimously passed a resolution in opposition to the transfer request
- The Board also passed a resolution with a notice of findings on the overcrowding of schools in the Los Gatos district, this resolution was forwarded on to the town of Los Gatos. There are a number of regulations and codes that speak to this issue and those are contained in the large amount of information provided to staff.
- Wanted to provide a little bit of background of what was found in the notice of findings and show the evidence of overcrowding in the district. We have provided a copy of the long term facility master plan.
• Also provided a demographic study that shows the student generation factor has increased to .386 students per household. For the 59 parcels in this request, that translates to about 23 students per household which we believe is a moderate number.

• Findings also show that the schools in the district were not built for the capacity that the district has today per CDE requirements. Blossom Hill was built for 600 students and currently has 675, Van Meter was built for 575 and has 670, Daves Avenue was built for 500 students and currently has 570. The only school with room is Lexington, it was built for 324 students and currently has 170. The district has one middle school, Fisher, with currently 1,300 students projected to increase to 1,500.

• Increased enrollment is projected for the district. The district does not have any additional parcels or land to build a new school.

• A lot of information was provided regarding the district’s revenue that we didn’t comment on but would like to state that Los Gatos Union is the lowest funded district in Santa Clara County based on our demographics, we are planning on that, but currently we are a basic aid district. Rely on funding through the home and school clubs.

• Los Gatos Union is a fiscally responsible district but we don’t have the money to purchase land and build new schools, we would have to go out for a bond.

• The district entered into a voluntary agreement with the North 40 development pending approval, agreement would give a two acre parcel or some monetary amount for portables or to build new classrooms.

• There is the assumption that students who move into the district will go their home school, that is not true, students are currently being redirected to schools where there is capacity. Some students are being moved to Lexington where there is capacity but it’s four miles up the hill from downtown Los Gatos. Lexington was built as an overflow school.

• District does not have an overflow middle school, Fisher is the only middle school.

Frank Biehl, County Committee Member:
Asked for confirmation regarding the comment that Los Gatos Union is the lowest funded school district in Santa Clara County and that they are basic aid. Member Biehl asked if they were the lowest funded basic aid district.

Dr. Abbati:
Stated that LGUSD is currently a basic aid district but when the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) is fully implemented the district will no longer be basic aid and they will be the lowest funded district under LCFF because they do not have the demographics to apply for supplemental and block grants. The district is planning for this in the 2017-18 school year.

Mandy Lowell, County Committee Member:
Asked the district if they are just including their government sources of income. It was confirmed by Dr. Abbati that it’s just government funding.
Bob Mistele, Superintendent, Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District:
- Apologized for missing the first public hearing but school board had a meeting that night
- Here to represent the community, the school board, and staff
- The board passed a resolution on March 31st in opposition of the transfer, they do not feel that this request meets the criteria
- Los Gatos High School is experiencing a growth spurt, we went to the community and asked for a bond which was passed. Still two years out before we build additional classrooms.
- We have a capacity issue
- Los Gatos High School was built for 1,700 students and currently has 1,950; teachers are sharing classrooms
- We are impacted

Member Frank Biehl:
Asked Mr. Mistele if the board actually passed a resolution. Mr. Mistele confirmed that they had on March 31st.

Chair, Nejleh Abed:
Asked if the students in the Los Gatos High attendance area were able to go to that school or were they sent to another school.

Bob Mistele:
Stated that students can currently attend Los Gatos High School, but if there were an issue of overflow they could send students to Saratoga High School which is a little under capacity.

Dr. Jacki Horejs, Superintendent, Union School District:
Dr. Horejs made the following statements in opposition of the petition:
- Won’t reiterate comments, same as the first public hearing
- On April 13th the Board passed a resolution in opposition of the request
- Would like to point out that it is not in the best interest of the district’s children to have parcels taken away. Union School District relies on enrollment for its funding. The new funding sources (LCFF) from the state affects each district differently, we are caught in the middle. We don’t have a high enough number of low socioeconomic students to get the concentration grants but we’re not a wealthy enough district to be basic aid.
- District does not have the parent ability to raise extra funds – there is no education foundation
- Every dollar counts for our district – every student in every seat every day, that’s what we rely on
- Asked the committee to please consider the impact on the district when students are pulled out
- In November 2015 putting out a parcel tax measure - $96/parcel for 10 years
Member Mandy Lowell:  
Asked if Dr. Horejs had any comments on the community aspect; if there were efforts to make the residents of the 59 parcels feel part of the community.

Dr. Horejs:  
Stated that the district is very welcoming and that parent engagement is a large part of the district’s efforts. Because the district doesn’t have the parent ability to raise additional funds they rely on volunteer efforts; the district has community relationships and volunteers. Stated that those living in the transfer area and go to Union schools are happy with the schools.

Chair, Nejleh Abed:  
Asked if the district offers bus service. Dr. Horejs stated that it’s only provided for special education students.

Patrick Gaffney, Superintendent, Campbell Union High School District:  
Mr. Gaffney made the following statements in opposition of the petition:
- CUHSD board unanimously adopted a resolution in opposition to the transfer request
- We believe that people buy property knowing which district they’re in
- We are a basic aid district
- Have a current parcel tax of $85 per parcel

Registered Speakers

Kelly Wallace, Resident/Proponent:
- Has two children in Kindergarten and 3rd grade attending Noddin Elementary.
- Very involved in the school
- Community is fragmented – we are cutoff from the school district. There are no carpools and it’s hard to schedule playdates due to the travel time and distance
- Want to be a complete part of Los Gatos community
- Understand that Blossom Hill may not be our home school

David Stevens, Resident/Proponent:
- Lived in the neighborhood for a year and a half, moved there from Willow Glen
- Like the diversity in our neighborhood
- Los Gatos is about 84% white and 1.2% African American, it’s appalling that they are shoving away the 59 parcels.
- We offer diversity to the district. They want to shut diversity out by keeping out this neighborhood
- Drive to Union schools is dangerous
- Do this for the kids and for the future of Los Gatos, make it more diverse
Chair, Nejleh Abed:
Asked how old his children were and what grades in school.
Mr. Stevens stated that his children are 3 and 5 and are not yet in school.

Vic LoBue, Resident/Proponent:
- Resident of the neighborhood with a 1st grader at Noddin Elementary
- Using the preferred route to Union commuters are faced with a number of traffic issues and aggressive traffic patterns
- The route to Los Gatos schools is safer and there are crossing guards located at the intersections, families also use this route for day to day driving
- Both Union and Los Gatos districts are dealing with overcrowding
- There is a recently developed San Jose tract that feeds into the Los Gatos district with no presale identification needed

Nanci Solomon, Resident/proponent:
- 22 year resident of the Alta Vista neighborhood
- Driving from the area east to Union schools is more dangerous due to the overhanging trees, sun, and curves.
- Safety is a key consideration to this request
- Has driven routes to the schools during commute hours and has spoken with the Noddin Elementary safety officer; reports of many safety issues.

Melanie Hanssen, Resident/proponent:
- Spoke at the first public hearing about inclusion in the Los Gatos community
- Three children, two are older and one is 12
- Lived in the Alta Vista neighborhood since 2001; raised the family mostly in the neighborhood but did rent in Los Gatos and attended Daves Avenue for a little while.
- We knew the home was in Union School District when we bought it but we thought it would be easier to be included in the Los Gatos schools.
- Long history of community involvement in Los Gatos; currently sit on the Los Gatos Planning Commission
- Geography causes issues
- Los Gatos Little League and other sports leagues – there’s a disconnect between the sports leagues and the school districts, this makes it difficult to carpool, make friends, etc.

Member, Albert Beltran:
Asked if the Los Gatos Planning Commission could do anything about the fire gate or road.
Ms. Hanssen stated that it’s not an issue for the Planning Commission

Member, Mandy Lowell:
Asked if the road was two lanes if the gate would be opened.
Ms. Hanssen stated that she would be surprised if the residents on the other side of the gate would agree to that.
Tom Thimot, Opponent:
- Children attending Los Gatos schools, three daughters at Van Meter ages 7, 8, and 10
- Careful to check that the home they purchased was in Los Gatos School District
- Los Gatos schools are overcrowded
- There are many safety concerns with the Los Gatos district
- Boundary lines are crazy in many different areas
- We paid more to be in Los Gatos School District – if families want Los Gatos School District then buy a home in Los Gatos
- This is really about the boundary lines and we pay more to be here and we want the lines to stay where they were drawn

Mary Balgoyan, Resident:
- Does not have children in school, has children in school who like the schools they’re in
- Wanted to talk about the fire gate at Harwood Road, important to this issue
- Talked with Planning Manager in Los Gatos and others in Los Gatos
- The original intent was to have the road go down to Shannon Road but there was a bad accident on Harwood Road and residents did not want through traffic

John Feland, Resident/Proponent:
- We also bought homes in Los Gatos, we’re happy with where we live, happy with current schools, and happy with schools we may have in the future
- Any access to the schools we have here is fantastic
- Isolation, we are an island in Los Gatos; neighbor across the street go to Los Gatos schools, neighbors five minutes down the road go to Los Gatos schools but for my daughters to find a playmate we have to drive 15 or 20 minutes
- This is not a question of finances, both districts have their challenges with funding and capacity, there are portables at Union schools today.
- We are caught in the middle, we are part of the Los Gatos community we are not included in the Union community as evidenced by the gate with padlocks
- Asking to be included in a community where we spend our time and money and where we build our businesses.
- We are this one little island and all around us is Los Gatos schools

Lianne Verheyden, opponent:
- Parent at Daves Avenue Elementary
- 3 children in school
- Understand the position of the petitioners but traffic at Daves is frightening; don’t want to see more traffic; school drop-off (between 7:55 and 8:20) is gridlock
- Bermuda triangle between Fisher, Van Meter, and Daves – traffic is bad
- Transfer will create more traffic, there are already lots of safety issues for Los Gatos as well
- We researched where we wanted to live and spent a lot of time figuring it out – schools are good and we paid a premium to live here
- Adding more students will detract from the quality of education and then property values will decline

**Rocco Regnelli, student at Daves Elementary:**
- 4\(^{th}\) grader at Daves
- School is fun but there is a lot of overcrowding
- Teachers can’t handle a big class – there are a lot of kids fooling around

**Nicole Regnelli, opponent:**
- Vice President of the home and school club
- Bought our home for the great schools and for the neighborhood school
- There is overcrowding at all the schools
- Volunteers try to help alleviate crowding issues on the playground and school but can’t always help in the classroom
- We paid a premium to be in Los Gatos School District not just in Los Gatos

**Kelly Duval, opponent:**
- Has a 4\(^{th}\) and 7\(^{th}\) grader – Blossom Hill and Fisher Middle
- President of the Blossom Hill home and school club
- We have a $350,000 budget and need to raise money – that’s what volunteers do we buy computers for students with the money we raise – this is money we raise not that we get from the state
- Sympathize with the families that want to transfer
- There’s a misconception that the Los Gatos district is affluent, that’s not true. Parents make up for it with donations. We receive less money from the state than Union School District and we as parents have to make up for that
- Purposefully bought our home to be in the Los Gatos schools and we bought in Blossom Manor so that we could have Los Gatos Schools. We had to pay a lot more but it was worth it.
- Paid to be in the Los Gatos schools

**Kristin Dillehay, opponent:**
- 4\(^{th}\) grader at Blossom Hill and freshman at Los Gatos High School parent
- The schools are taxed both in terms of student population and teacher workload – every year we get more students. Additional parcels would be an added burden.
- Residents knew there district when they bought their homes. This transfer would create a slippery slope
- They bought their homes and chose to live in the Union School District, I chose to live in the school district
- This has nothing to do with diversity; Los Gatos is a diverse district and it’s not about wanting to keep a certain demographic out
- Safety element within Los Gatos – work with Safe Routes to School for safe alternatives
Peter Noymer, LGUSD board member/opponent:
- State of student population – quite high and getting higher, many discussions at our board meetings on how to mitigate this
- Concern that district is in a tough spot and it’s getting worse
- When our kids were younger we lived in Willow Glen and we looked around for better schools and we looked at homes in Los Gatos and Saratoga and looked specifically at homes with Los Gatos mailing addresses with attractive prices to find out they were not in the Los Gatos district
- Those are the rules, there are certain boundary lines and you pay more for what schools you go to then just on what your mailing address is
- We made a conscious decision to go for Los Gatos schools and a Los Gatos address – we paid a premium for this and got a smaller house – the house we’re in is smaller than 3,000 square feet, it’s on a plot of land that’s smaller than 10,000 square feet, the houses we’re talking about for the transfer are higher than that.
- Based on my analysis if these homes transfer into Los Gatos the value could increase by as much as $500,000, would be thrilled by this financial windfall if I was one of these families but I don’t think this should be a reason to request the transfer

Isabel Guerra, opponent:
- Kids attend school in Los Gatos School District
- Didn’t always live in Los Gatos – had to make a trade-off when you live in Los Gatos
- School district was key to purchasing our house – have to make a sacrifice to pay more to get the district you want
- When my kids get to high school the issue of overcrowding may mean that they will have to go to Saratoga High School instead of Los Gatos and that’s really disappointing
- The community identity issue can be solved by other means
- If other families have paid more and sacrificed and there’s a possibility that their kids can’t go to their neighborhood schools then that’s unfair

Unregistered Speakers

Becky Hanson, opponent:
- President of Daves home and school club
- When we first bought a home it was in Los Gatos but didn’t feed into the Los Gatos district. We felt like we really wanted to be part of Los Gatos schools so we sacrificed and we downgraded tremendously to be in Los Gatos schools. Don’t regret our choice, it’s the sacrifice we made.
- We have parking issues, we live downtown and have only a one car garage but that’s the decision we made to be in Los Gatos schools
- Sorry, but these people knew the district when they bought here homes, this area has always been Union School District and I hope it stays that way
Nanci Solomon, resident/proponent:
- Detailed more of the safety issues around Noddin Elementary based on her conversation with the safety officer

Jeannette Murray, opponent
- Has 2 kids, 14 and 10 – Los Gatos High and Daves
- Have lived in Los Gatos for less than a year, prior lived in Almaden and kids attended SJUSD schools where classroom size were 32 per class starting in kindergarten
- Passionate about impact of classroom size on each students quality of life
- I’m thinking in terms of how letting various parcels entering school district, how will it impact daily life in the classroom
- Currently have 27 kids in classroom, that’s a luxury and a tremendous difference for the students and the teachers
- We downsized to live in Los Gatos, lost about 2,500 square feet but it’s the sacrifice we made to live in Los Gatos

The public hearing ended at 6:19 p.m.
Request for District Transfer – Alta Vista

Petition to Transfer Territory from Union School District and Campbell Union High School District to Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District

Presented by Alta Vista Chief Petitioner: Susan Feland
Alta Vista meets all the requirements set forth by the criteria in EC 35709 for a district transfer into the Los Gatos District

- **Isolation and Geography** – The Santa Clara County school district lines cause isolation for our neighborhood. Our community is isolated because it is surrounded by other homes and neighborhoods in Los Gatos Schools.

- **Distance from Social and School Centers** – Alta Vista is closer to Los Gatos social and school centers than any other community and accesses them along safer routes.

- **Concern for Children’s Safety** – We are endangering our children by forcing them to commute a more hazardous route to the Union schools rather than the Los Gatos schools.

- **Topography** – Alta Vista is geographically situated to most safely access the Los Gatos town and school district.

- **Community Identity** – Alta Vista identifies with Los Gatos and is an integral part of Los Gatos in every other way besides the schools.
Alta Vista is isolated by geography and district boundary lines that jut around Alta Vista.

Must drive around to Union Schools

Fire Gate here

Must drive around to Union Schools
Isolated from Union District because there is no direct access to Alta Vista

Only north access is via a one-lane fire road called Harwood Rd
"The Harwood Gate will not be opened unless it is necessary in the event of a fire or other emergency... There are no plans to ever change that position."

Two Senior Los Gatos Planning officials 1) Joel Paulson, Planning Manager for Los Gatos and 2) Steve Regan, Parks and Streets Superintendent stated* the following:

- They both confirmed, "The gate leading to Harwood would be opened only in the event of a fire or other incident that required the use of vehicles that could not use Santa Rosa for access...There are no plans to ever change that position."
- Mr. Regan confirmed again with emphasis, "That gate will not be opened unless it is necessary in the event of a fire or other emergency."
- Mr. Paulson said: "That gate was closed for a reason and it will be opened only if necessary to provide access to emergency vehicles."

Conclusion: The gate is locked with no key code and no way to pass through for residents.

*Statements made 9 April, 2015
Alta Vista is isolated from its surrounding neighbors; Sierra Azule (Los Gatos) and Alta Vista (Union) share same and only Access Road in and out of area: Santa Rosa Drive
To Exit Alta Vista and Sierra Azule, both streets take Santa Rosa Drive to Shannon Road, then go West (towards Los Gatos Schools) or East (towards Union Schools)
Topography has created a strong Community Identity for Alta Vista with the town of Los Gatos.

Houses located on mountain range running east west with no easy access north. Alta Vista goes west into the town of Los Gatos where there is a strong identity.

Los Gatos Schools and Town

Easiest Route

West

To Los Gatos Schools

Shannon Road

Union Schools

No Through Passage

Alta Vista

EAST

To Union Schools
The closest and safest route for Alta Vista is to Los Gatos social and school centers.

59 Parcels are closer to Los Gatos vs Union School District and San Jose

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Los Gatos</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>San Jose/Union</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shannon Fire Station</td>
<td>2.5 miles</td>
<td>San Jose Fire Dept</td>
<td>4.2 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Gatos Community Ctr</td>
<td>4.3 miles</td>
<td>Camden Community Ctr</td>
<td>5.7 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blossom Hill Elementary</td>
<td>3.5 miles</td>
<td>Noddin Elementary</td>
<td>4.5 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisher Middle School</td>
<td>3.1 miles</td>
<td>Union Middle School</td>
<td>5.3 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Gatos High School</td>
<td>4.3 miles</td>
<td>Leigh High School</td>
<td>4.3 miles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Distance based on starting point of the intersection of Madera Court and Santa Rosa Drive
Concerns for Children’s Safety:
Western route to Los Gatos District schools has fewer accidents, avoids blinding sun, has few intersections, and avoids area prone to floods compared to Eastern route.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Danger (Defined as a driving hazard)</th>
<th>East Route (towards Union Schools)</th>
<th>West Route (towards Los Gate Schools)</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Blind Turns (greater than 90 degree radius)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Increase chance of head on collision with oncoming traffic or inability to react to issues while passing a biker or road hazard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Trees within 2ft of White Line on Road</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Increase chance of accident from hitting or avoiding tree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Trees on the White Line of Road</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Increase chance of accident from hitting or avoiding tree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance between yellow (center) and white lane lines</td>
<td>All over 9.5 ft wide</td>
<td>7.5-8 ft wide</td>
<td>More space to maneuver in lane.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of turn at 270 degree radius or more</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>When road curves greater than 270 degrees, decrease visibility.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### The Eastern leg on Shannon Road is more dangerous than the Western leg from Santa Rosa (access road to Alta Vista)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Danger (Defined as a driving hazard)</th>
<th>West Route (towards Los Gatos Schools)</th>
<th>East Route (towards Union Schools)</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Driving into Sun during peak transport hours</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Morning and Afternoon</td>
<td>Increase chance of blindness while transporting children to school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road Closure or Impassable due to flooding</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3-10 times per year</td>
<td>Increase chance of accident from floods and turn arounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encounter Large Trucks on Road or oncoming traffic at close distance</td>
<td>Local Produce Delivery and typical FedEx and UPS Traffic</td>
<td>More likely since Hicks feeds more neighborhoods and road borders the Guadalupe Dump.</td>
<td>Increase chance of accident from road encroaching on lane.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Eastern leg on Shannon Road is more dangerous than the Western leg from Santa Rosa (access road to Alta Vista)

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coinciding with Traffic</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>On Hicks Road – pass Los Gatos Christian School with 350 kids commuting in and out of school.</td>
<td>Increase chance of accidents with school parents coming and going through access roads with limited views.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large 4-lane intersections</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>Increase chance of accident from people running lights, bikers, and pedestrians.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Eastern leg on Shannon Road is more dangerous than the Western leg from Santa Rosa (access road to Alta Vista).

Shortest (eastern) route heads into blinding rising sun in morning and blinding setting sun in afternoon.
Concerns for Children’s Safety: Routes to Union and Campbell Union more dangerous

Shortest (eastern) route to Union includes 11 blind turns.
Concerns for Children’s Safety: Routes to Union and Campbell Union more dangerous: Busy Intersections

Intersection at Hicks and Camden especially dangerous; police often monitor because people tend to run light.
Concerns for Children's Safety: Routes to Union and Campbell Union more dangerous: Busy Intersections

Busy Intersection: Blossom Hill and Harwood
Concerns for Children’s Safety: Routes to Union and Campbell Union more dangerous: Busy Intersections

Busy Intersection: Blossom Hill and Union Ave
Concerns for Children’s Safety: Routes to Union and Campbell Union more dangerous: Busy Intersections

Busy Intersection: Blossom Hill and Leigh Ave
Concerns for Children’s Safety: Routes to Union and Campbell Union more dangerous: Busy Intersections

Busy Intersection: Union Ave and Los Gatos Almaden
Concerns for Children’s Safety:
Routes to Union and Campbell Union more
dangerous: Road Hazards due to Flooding

Seasonal Flooding on Hicks Road between Camden Ave
and Burke Road: flooding section belongs to San Jose
Concerns for Children’s Safety:
Routes to Union and Campbell Union more dangerous: Road Hazards due to Flooding

Flooding Details on Hicks Road between Camden Ave and Burke Road:

- According to Santa Clara Valley Water District, this area is along the Guadalupe Creek with levels that rise and fall (confirmed Apr 16, 2015)

- According to Kiley – the San Jose Superintendent of Pavement, the storm drain inlet is cleaned out annually because of clogging (Apr 16, 2015)

- The number of times the road floods over past 3 years is between 3-10 days per year (Apr 17, 2015)
Numerous Traffic Incidents on way to Union Schools: 25-30 Reported

From 4/6/2014 - 4/6/2015 there were 25 Traffic Incidents to Noddin Elementary School; 30 Traffic Incidents to Union Middle School; 29 Traffic Incidents to Leigh High School

http://www.sjpd.org/CrimeStats/MyNeighborhoodUpdate.html
Roads to Los Gatos Schools from Alta Vista do not concern the Los Gatos Traffic Engineer.

April 16, 2015, Los Gatos Town Traffic Engineer Jessy Pu, TE, PE, Town Traffic Engineer for Parks and Public Works, who managed all aspects of traffic flow, data collection and safety, confirmed:

- There are no remarkable traffic flow issues on Shannon Road or Los Gatos Blvd.
- Accidents are not an issue from Shannon Road to the Los Gatos schools.
- School routes from Shannon Road are not worrisome.
- A Public Records Act has been filed for more specific accident data on these roads for the past 3 years.
Traffic Engineer Plans for Shannon Road Communities into Los Gatos School Route

Fisher Middle School

School Boundary
School Route
15-minute Walk (2/3 Mile Radius)
Crossing Guard
Marked Crosswalk
Signalized Intersection
Stop Sign Approach

Traffic Engineer Plans for Shannon Road Communities into Los Gatos School Route

Green Bike Lanes along Los Gatos Blvd along path to High School

http://www.losgatosca.gov/2231/Green-Bike-Lanes
Number of Children in Alta Vista will not significantly impact or over-burden either District

Demographics of Neighborhood

59 Parcels with only 57 are Developed; Majority of families choose cultural-based and private educational options; Adults Generally Older with Older Children;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># School Age Kids</th>
<th>Grades: K-8</th>
<th>Grades: 9-12</th>
<th># Kids in Public School</th>
<th># Kids in Religion or Cultural-Based Private Program</th>
<th># Kids in Academic-Based Private Program</th>
<th>Average Age of Adults in Neighborhood (age in years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7 reported</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Based on Neighborhood Survey Conducted April 2015
Alta Vista has a Strong Identity and History with Los Gatos

- Neighbors are active in Los Gatos community: business owners; coaching Los Gatos sports teams; serving on Los Gatos commissions; leaders in Los Gatos religious and philanthropic organizations; community participants.

- Since Alta Vista was first built in 1979 at least 15 children have gone to Los Gatos Schools until the early 1990s.

- Alta Vista community is remote, yet DOES NOT WANT TO BE ISOLATED.*

*Confirmed in survey conducted in April 2015 in Alta Vista Neighborhood.
Alta Vista has a Strong Identity and History with Los Gatos

Neighbors patronize organizations, events and businesses in Los Gatos such as:

- **Organizations**: St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Calvary Church, Presbyterian Church – Los Gatos, Los Gatos Methodist, Saint Lukes Episcopal Church, Congregation Shir Hadash, Jewbilee at Los Gatos JCC, Chabad of San Jose

- **Businesses patronized**: Safeway (Santa Cruz Ave), Los Gatos School of Music, Rockin’ Kidz Music, Los Gatos Optometric Vision, Los Gatos Brewing Company, Three Degrees, Forbes Mill Steakhouse, Campo Di Bocce, Double D’s Sports Grille, California Café and Restaurant, Noah’s Bagels, Lunardi’s (Los Gatos Blvd), Whole Foods (Los Gatos Blvd), Los Gatos Café, Manresa, The Lexington House, Palacio Restaurant, Purple Onion Café and Catering, Restaurant Sent Sovi, Steamers, Viva! Primavera

- **Parks and Recreation**: Vasona County Park, Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad, Oak Meadow Park, Bill Mason Carousel, Oak Meadow Park, History Museum of Los Gatos, Los Gatos Creek Trail, Los Gatos Mountain Trails, Lexington Reservoir, Art Museum of Los Gatos, Blossom Hill Park, Heintz Open Space, Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve, Los Gatos Historic Commercial District, Los Gatos/Saratoga Recreation: Various Lessons

- **Events**: Shakespeare in the Park, Vasona, Vasona Light Display, Los Gatos Downtown Farmer’s Market, Music in the Park, Jazz on the Plazz, Library workshops, etc.

Note: This list is not inclusive
Because of Strong Identity to Los Gatos
the School District Lines Create Many Challenges

Challenges with Alta Vista in Los Gatos, but at Union Schools

- Difficulty carpooling; playing after school; and deepening relationship with families in school and community.

- Inconsistent mix of children from school in sport programs and community programs.

- Children are often “new” when they join community, athletic, religious or club activities because they do not have a chance to meet in school.
Redistricting Does NOT Significantly Impact Financials for Union School District and Campbell Union High School

### Union School District Revenues from Parcel and Bond Tax Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Local Revenue for USD</th>
<th>Amount Alta Vista Parcel / year</th>
<th>.001074 of avg tax/parcel Alta Vista*</th>
<th>Total Tax from all Parcels in Alta Vista*</th>
<th>% Impact of Alta Vista</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23,162,357</td>
<td>$96</td>
<td>$2,041</td>
<td>$121,843</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Campbell Union High School District Revenues from Parcel & Bond Tax Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Local Revenue for CUHSD</th>
<th>Amount Alta Vista Parcel / year</th>
<th>.000284 of avg tax/parcel Alta Vista*</th>
<th>Total Tax from all Parcels in Alta Vista*</th>
<th>% Impact of Alta Vista</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$64,606,504</td>
<td>$85</td>
<td>$540</td>
<td>$35,646</td>
<td>0.06%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

USD and CUHSD Data Based on LCFF Funding Snapshot from the California Dept of Education School Fiscal Service Report generated 4/21/2015. Data is as of February 2015.

*Based on Office of the Assessor County of Santa Clara Property Tax Amounts reported as of 6/30/2014 for 59 relevant Parcels.*
Redistricting Alta Vista neighborhood does NOT significantly increase cost to state or burden Districts

No Increased Cost to State based on recent financial calculations and previous studies (SOF Jan 95, p.10).

Education Code 35709 establishes a level of 10% as threshold for determining a significant increase in cost to state. Transferring this neighborhood would not cause a 10% change.

The transfer would NOT burden the Los Gatos School District based on historical precedents for financial management: “The (Los Gatos School) District has an excellent track record...in what has proven to be a cycle of lean years and prosperous years in education finances.” (From page 20 in 2013 - 2014 Los Gatos Union School District for fiscal year ended June 30, 2014)
Fiscal year 2013-14 represents the first year of implementation of the new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). However, due to the current level of allocated property tax revenues, the District continues to be funded under the Basic Aid Provision.

The District's overall financial status improved during the course of the year, as total net position increased 1.3%.

On the Statement of Activities, total current year revenues exceeded total current year expenses by $3,354,804.

Capital assets, net of depreciation, increased $10,133,367 due to the current year addition of $13,512,003 of new capital assets and improvements, and the current year recognition of $3,178,636 of depreciation expense.

Total long-term liabilities decreased $4,622,865, due primarily to the current year reduction of the District's obligation for general obligation bonds.

The District's P-2 ADA increased from 3,099 in fiscal year 2012-13, up to 3,169 in fiscal year 2013-14, an increase of 2.3%.

The General Fund contributed $2.8 million to the Capital Projects - Special Reserve Fund to set aside funding for future capital projects. As a result, the District incurred a $1,142,002 decrease in fund balance. In addition, the District reported a $3,497,687 decrease in its available reserves, due to a significant increase in the portion of the ending fund balance that has been assigned for specific future uses.

The District maintains sufficient reserves for a district its size. It meets the state required minimum reserve for economic uncertainty of 3% of general fund expenditures. Transfers out, and other uses (total outgo) during fiscal year 2013-14, General Fund expenditures and other financing uses totaled $31,599,198. At June 30, 2014, the District has available reserves of $4,277,011 in the General Fund, which represents a reserve of 13.5%.
Redistricting Does NOT Significantly Impact Financials or burden Los Gatos School Districts

**Los Gatos Union Elem School District from Parcel and Bond Tax Revenues**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Local Revenue for LGUE</th>
<th>Amount Alta Vista Parcel / year</th>
<th>0.000569 and 0.000237 of Avg tax / parcel Alta Vista*</th>
<th>Total Tax from all Parcels in Alta Vista*</th>
<th>% Impact of Alta Vista</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$21,465,888</td>
<td>$290</td>
<td>$1,533</td>
<td>$103,944</td>
<td>0.48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Los Gatos Saratoga Jt Union High School District from Parcel & Bond Tax Revenues**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Local Revenue for LGSJUH</th>
<th>Amount Alta Vista Parcel / year</th>
<th>0.000353 and 0.000163 of Avg tax / parcel Alta Vista*</th>
<th>Total Tax from all Parcels in Alta Vista*</th>
<th>% Impact of Alta Vista</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$36,535,252</td>
<td>$49</td>
<td>$982</td>
<td>$58,755</td>
<td>0.16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Based on Office of the Assessor County of Santa Clara Property Tax Amounts reported as of 6/30/2014 for 59 relevant Parcels.
Alta Vista would more than cover student expense for Los Gatos school and offer additional revenues to offset expenses for other students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alta Vista Local Taxation Reported by Santa Clara County*</th>
<th>Assume Number of Students from Alta Vista (elementary)</th>
<th>Avg Local Revenue Contributed by Alta Vista per student*</th>
<th>Avg Local Revenue collected per elementary student in Los Gatos</th>
<th>Additional per student contribution from Alta Vista</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$103,944</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>$14,849</td>
<td>$6,601</td>
<td>$8,248</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Alta Vista parcels would contribute more than double the average Household in Los Gatos with fewer kids attending school. Alta Vista would contribute more than the expense of each student - assume cost/student is $9,099. Remaining revenue could offset expenses.


*Based on Office of the Assessor County of Santa Clara Property Tax Amounts reported as of 6/30/2014 for 59 relevant Parcels, assuming standard tax rate on property tax and conservative 20% given to schools.
Addressing Potential Concerns: NO Negative or Significant Increase in Cost for Los Gatos School Districts

- High level of funding from Alta Vista because of tax assessments. Low number of students relative to funds for property taxes.

- Residents are generous and would contribute to Los Gatos fundraising efforts and programs.

- Low number of students would not contribute to overcrowding.

- Creative solutions exist and there is time to consider how to accommodate new neighborhoods being developed in Los Gatos.

- Would promote sound fiscal management and NOT cause a substantial (at least 10%) negative effect on the fiscal status of the proposed district change or any existing district affected by the proposed reorganization. (SOFR 95).
NO Significant Impact on Numbers of Pupils for Union and Campbell Union High School Districts

**Union Elementary School District ADA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADA Total</th>
<th>Alta Vista # (assume 11)</th>
<th>% Impact on ADA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5436</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Campbell Union High School District Enrollment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADA Total</th>
<th>Alta Vista # (Assume 11)</th>
<th>% Impact on Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7285</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assume significant impact would be 10% for criteria in EC 35709. The impact of Alta Vista is not significant (at .2% and .15%).

USD and CUHSD Data Based on LCFF Funding Snapshot from the California Dept of Education School Fiscal Service Report generated 4/21/2015. Data is as of February 2015.
NO Significant Impact on Numbers of Pupils for Los Gatos School District Los Gatos Elementary projects lower growth this year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>157</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Audit and Forecasting, Los Gatos projects lower growth in ADA for future. (Based on predictions in Los Gatos audit.)

* Los Gatos School Data Based on Los Gatos Union School District County of Santa Clara Audit Report June 30, 2014 page 54 and 58
NO Significant Impact on Numbers of Pupils for Los Gatos Union Elementary and Campbell High School Districts

### Los Gatos Union Elementary School District ADA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADA Total</th>
<th>Alta Vista # (assume 11)</th>
<th>% Impact on ADA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3251</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Los Gatos Saratoga Joint Union High School District ADA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADA Total</th>
<th>Alta Vista # (Assume 11)</th>
<th>% Impact on Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3195</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assume significant impact would be 10% for criteria in EC 35709. The impact of Alta Vista is not significant (at .3%).

Los Gatos Data Based on LCFF Funding Snapshot from the California Dept of Education School Fiscal Service Report generated 4/21/2015. Data is as of February 2015.
Redistricting would NOT promoting racial or ethnic discrimination or segregation for Los Gatos Schools

- Alta Vista is very diverse in language, ethnicity, culture, and religion – Therefore supports CA Education Code Section 35753 (a)(4) will not promote racial or ethnic discrimination or segregation.

- Alta Vista inclusion in the Los Gatos School District would actually have greater positive impact on diversifying the Los Gatos white population more than it would impact the Union District.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Los Gatos White Population</th>
<th>Alta Vista White Population*</th>
<th>USD and CUHSD White Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>84%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Numbers based on 2014 District Race Ethnicity Summaries; http://www.movoto.com/los-gatos-ca/95032/demographics/http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/0644112.html *Data from Demographic Survey Conducted in Alta Vista April 2015
Redistricting would prevent isolation of Alta Vista and create safer commute for children.

Alta Vista is only community on Shannon Rd not in Los Gatos Union School District.
Alta Vista meets all the requirements set forth by the criteria in EC 35709 for a district transfer into the Los Gatos District

- **Isolation and Geography** – The Santa Clara County school district lines cause isolation for our neighborhood. Our community is isolated because it is surrounded by other homes and neighborhoods in Los Gatos Schools.

- **Distance from Social and School Centers** – Alta Vista is closer to Los Gatos social and school centers than any other community and accesses them along safer routes.

- **Concern for Children’s Safety** – We are endangering our children by forcing them to commute a more hazardous route to the Union schools rather than the Los Gatos schools.

- **Topography** – Alta Vista is geographically situated to most safely access the Los Gatos town and school district.

- **Community Identity** – Alta Vista identifies with Los Gatos and is an integral part of Los Gatos in every other way besides the schools.

Thank you and please help make Alta Vista more integrated and safe!
UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution #14-15-12

Transfer of Territory
from the Union School District and Campbell Union High School Districts
to the Saratoga Union and Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization has received a formal petition from the owners of fifty-nine (59) parcels in Los Gatos from the Union and Campbell Union High School Districts to the Los Gatos Elementary and Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School Districts which are under the jurisdiction of the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools;

WHEREAS, California Education Code Section 35700 stipulates that an action to reorganize one or more districts is initiated upon the filing, with the county superintendent of schools, of a petition signed by the owners of the territory proposed to be reorganized, or by a majority of the members of the governing boards of each of the districts that would be affected by the proposed reorganization;

WHEREAS, the petition has been examined by the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools and found to be sufficient and signed as required by law;

WHEREAS, California Education Code Section 35709 stipulates that the county committees on school district organization may grant the petition if the conditions enumerated in Education Code Section 35753 are substantially met and the petition is to transfer inhabited territory of less than 10 percent of the assessed valuation of the district from which the territory is being transferred and all of the governing boards have consented to the transfer;

WHEREAS, the transfer does not meet the conditions of Education Code Section 35753;

WHEREAS, provisions for the exchange of property tax revenue are set forth in Taxation and Revenue Code Section 99(h) and provide that upon the aforementioned transfer becoming effective for all purposes, the property tax revenues generated by the aforementioned territory shall be attributable to tax rate areas within the district(s) which receive the territory which is transferred;

WHEREAS, the transfer has an increased financial impact on the remaining Union School District residents to pay the current and prior general obligation bonds and parcel taxes;

WHEREAS, the loss of assessed valuation from the planned construction of a fifty-nine (59) parcel home project will have a significant long-term effect on the fiscal resources of Union School District;
WHEREAS, the property transfer is designed to result in a significant increase in property values causing financial advantage to property owners because territory was transferred from one school district to an adjoining district;

WHEREAS, the approval of the transfer would set precedence for future transfers of territory out of the Union School District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, by a vote of the majority of the members, the Governing Board of the Union School District declares that it is not in the best interest of our school district to accept this transfer of property.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the Union School District, County of Santa Clara, State of California, this 13th day of April, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES: BILLINGS, BROWN, STUART

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: GOODSELL, HECTOR

ABSTENTIONS: NONE

I, Harold Stuart, Clerk of the Governing Board, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the Governing Board of the Union School District at the regular meeting of April 13, 2015, and maintained on file in the office of said Board.

Harold Stuart, Clerk of the Board
CAMPBELL UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution #15-2282

Transfer of Territory
from the Union and Campbell Union High School Districts
to the Saratoga Union and Los Gatos Saratoga Joint Union High School District

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization has received a formal petition from the owners of fifty-nine (59) parcels in Los Gatos from the Union and Campbell Union High School Districts to the Los Gatos Elementary and Los Gatos Saratoga Joint Union High School Districts which are under the jurisdiction of the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools;

WHEREAS, California Education Code Section 35700 stipulates that an action to reorganize one or more districts is initiated upon the filing, with the county superintendent of schools, of a petition signed by the owners of the territory proposed to be reorganized, or by a majority of the members of the governing boards of each of the districts that would be affected by the proposed reorganization;

WHEREAS, the petition has been examined by the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools and found to be sufficient and signed as required by law;

WHEREAS, California Education Code Section 35709 stipulates that the county committees on school district organization may grant the petition if the conditions enumerated in Education Code Section 35753 are substantially met and the petition is to transfer inhabited territory of less than 10 percent of the assessed valuation of the district from which the territory is being transferred and all of the governing boards have consented to the transfer;

WHEREAS, the transfer does not meet the conditions of Education Code Section 35753;

WHEREAS, provisions for the exchange of property tax revenue are set forth in Taxation and Revenue Code Section 99(h) and provide that upon the aforementioned transfer becoming effective for all purposes, the property tax revenues generated by the aforementioned territory shall be attributable to tax rate areas within the district(s) which receive the territory which is transferred;

WHEREAS, the transfer has an increased financial impact on the remaining Campbell Union High School District residents to pay the current and prior general obligation bonds and parcel taxes;

WHEREAS, the property transfer is designed to result in a significant increase in property values causing financial advantage to property owners because territory was transferred from one school district to an adjoining district;
WHEREAS, the approval of the transfer would set precedence for future transfers of territory out of the Campbell Union High School District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, by a vote of the majority of the members, the Governing Board of the Campbell Union High School District declares that it is not in the best interest of our school district to accept this transfer of property.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the Campbell Union High School District, County of Santa Clara, State of California, this 5th day of March, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES: K. Gallagher, W. Dillingham-Plew, S. Brown, L. Goytia and M. Dean

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

PREFERENTIAL AYES: H. Zawacki

I, Stacey Brown, Clerk of the Governing Board, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the Governing Board of the Campbell Union High School District at the regular meeting of March 5, 2015, and maintained on file in the office of said Board.

Stacey Brown
March 16, 2015

Suzanne Carrig
Administrative Program and Evaluation Specialist
Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization
1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95131-2398

Re: Concerns regarding Transfer of Territory into the Los Gatos Union School District

Dear Ms. Carrig:

I write on behalf of the Los Gatos Union School District Board of Trustees ("District") and its community to express our concern about a petition for a proposed transfer of 59 parcels from the Union School District and Campbell Union School District into our already impacted District. While the District will provide a full explanation of its concerns at a future Santa Clara County Committee's ("Committee") meeting on the transfer petition, we felt it was important for the Committee to understand the concerns about this petition from the outset.

The petition seeks to transfer 59 parcels and students from those parcels – now and in the future – to the District when the District is already facing a wave of growth from residents within its own boundaries as well as significant new development currently under consideration by the Town of Los Gatos. Increasing the District’s boundaries and adding students – even a small number – will impact the District’s facility needs and will disrupt the educational program quality, health and safety for our current and future students.

The District expects many of its community members will also attend the public hearings to explain why this transfer is not in the best interest of the District and its students – especially given the already serious concerns raised by our families over the past several years regarding the overcrowding of our schools.

I know the Los Gatos Union School District community appreciates the County Committee keeping these impacts and concerns in mind as they consider the petition. We look forward to providing additional information through this process. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Diana G. Abbati
Diana G. Abbati, Ed.D.
Superintendent

cc: Los Gatos Union School District Board of Trustees
Dr. Jacqueline Horejs, Superintendent, Union School District
Patrick Gaffney, Superintendent, Campbell Union School District
Bob Mistletoe, Superintendent, Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District
LOS GATOS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
LOS GATOS, CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION
#12-14-15

Transfer of Territory
from the Union and Campbell Union High School Districts
to the Los Gatos Union and Los Gatos Saratoga Joint Union High School Districts

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization has received a formal petition from the owners of fifty-nine (59) parcels in Los Gatos from the Union and Campbell Union High School Districts to the Los Gatos Union and Los Gatos Saratoga Joint Union High School Districts which are under the jurisdiction of the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools;

WHEREAS, California Education Code Section 35700 stipulates that an action to reorganize one or more districts is initiated upon the filing, with the county superintendent of schools, of a petition signed by the owners of the territory proposed to be reorganized, or by a majority of the members of the governing boards of each of the districts that would be affected by the proposed reorganization;

WHEREAS, the petition has been examined by the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools and found to be sufficient and signed as required by law;

WHEREAS, California Education Code Section 35709 stipulates that the county committees on school district organization may grant the petition if the conditions enumerated in Education Code Section 35753 are substantially met and the petition is to transfer inhabited territory of less than 10 percent of the assessed valuation of the district from which the territory is being transferred and all of the governing boards have consented to the transfer;

WHEREAS, the transfer does not meet the conditions of Education Code Section 35753;

WHEREAS, provisions for the exchange of property tax revenue are set forth in Taxation and Revenue Code Section 99(h) and provide that upon the aforementioned transfer becoming effective for all purposes, the property tax revenues generated by the aforementioned territory shall be attributable to tax rate areas within the district(s) which receive the territory which is transferred;

WHEREAS, the transfer has an increased financial impact on the remaining Los Gatos Union School District residents to pay the current and prior general obligation bonds and parcel taxes; it is not sufficient to pay for programmatic and facility needs to educate current and future students;
WHEREAS, the property transfer is designed to result in a significant increase in property values causing financial advantage to property owners because territory was transferred from one school district to an adjoining district;

WHEREAS, the approval of the transfer would set precedence for future transfers of territory into the Los Gatos Union School District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, by a vote of the majority of the members, the Governing Board of the Los Gatos Union School District declares that it is not in the best interest of our school district to accept this transfer of property.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the Los Gatos Union School District this 13th day of April, 2015, by the following vote:

AYES: BROOMFIELD, ETO, NOYMER, MARCELLIN

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: POTTS

ABSTAIN: NONE

I, the undersigned, President of the Board of the Los Gatos Union School District, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Governing Board of aforesaid School District at a regular meeting of the Board held on the 13th day of April, 2015.

Leigh-Ann Marcellin, Board President
Los Gatos Union School District

Date: 4/13/15
March 16, 2015

Suzanne Carrig
Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization
1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA  95131-2398

Re: Territory Transfer – Alta Vista

Dear Suzanne,

I am writing to express concern regarding the recent Territory Transfer Petition submitted by residents of the Alta Vista area – which is currently served by the Union School District and Campbell Union High School District. This petition calls for the transfer of 59 parcels into our already impacted school district.

This community is facing a wave of growth, made greater by significant new development currently under consideration by the Town of Los Gatos. Our district’s current demographic study projected a significant increase in enrollment at Los Gatos High School by 2018, based on current district boundaries. To address this growth, the district took Measure E to the voters in June 2014. Measure E, a general obligation bond, will provide funding for a new classroom wing at LGHS to accommodate projected growth at that school of 300 students. Expanding boundaries could result in enrollment growth that creates even more facility needs – needs we are not in a position to meet.

The LGSUHSD Board of Trustees, the community and I appreciate your efforts to shepherd this process through and maintain communication. We will be collaborating with the other districts impacted by this petition and ask that the County Committee consider the negative impact on our districts’ ability to serve our students and our community should boundaries expand.

Sincerely,

Bob Mistele
Superintendent

C: LGSUHSD Board of Trustees
   Dr. Diana Abbati, Superintendent – LGUSD
   Mr. Patrick Gaffney, Superintendent – CUHSD
   Dr. Jacqueline Horejs, Superintendent – Union SD
WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization has received a formal petition from the owners of fifty-nine (59) parcels in Los Gatos from the Union and Campbell Union High School Districts to the Los Gatos Elementary and Los Gatos Saratoga Joint Union High School Districts which are under the jurisdiction of the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools;

WHEREAS, California Education Code Section 35700 stipulates that an action to reorganize one or more districts is initiated upon the filing, with the county superintendent of schools, of a petition signed by the owners of the territory proposed to be reorganized, or by a majority of the members of the governing boards of each of the districts that would be affected by the proposed reorganization;

WHEREAS, the petition has been examined by the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools and found to be sufficient and signed as required by law;

WHEREAS, California Education Code Section 35709 stipulates that the county committees on school district organization may grant the petition if the conditions enumerated in Education Code Section 35753 are substantially met and the petition is to transfer inhabited territory of less than 10 percent of the assessed valuation of the district from which the territory is being transferred and all of the governing boards have consented to the transfer;

WHEREAS, the transfer does not meet the conditions of Education Code Section 35753;

WHEREAS, provisions for the exchange of property tax revenue are set forth in Taxation and Revenue Code Section 99(h) and provide that upon the aforementioned transfer becoming effective for all purposes, the property tax revenues generated by the aforementioned territory shall be attributable to tax rate areas within the district(s) which receive the territory which is transferred;

WHEREAS, the Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District is currently experiencing and projecting substantial future enrollment growth which has already required additional classrooms and facilities construction, with bond-financing;

WHEREAS, the currently planned, bond-financed additional classrooms and facilities have not been designed to accommodate students residing outside of current district boundaries;
WHEREAS, any increase in student enrollment will need to be assigned to either Saratoga High School's or Los Gatos High School's attendance area based on capacity;

WHEREAS, the property transfer is designed to result in a significant increase in property values causing financial advantage to property owners because territory was transferred from one school district to an adjoining district;

WHEREAS, the approval of the transfer would set precedence for future transfers of territory into the Los Gatos – Saratoga Joint Union High School District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, by a vote of the majority of the members, the Governing Board of the Los Gatos – Saratoga Joint Union High School District declares that it is not in the best interest of our school district to accept this transfer of property.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the Los Gatos – Saratoga Joint Union High School District, County of Santa Clara, State of California, this 31st day of March, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES: Trustees Chang, Mano, Ramezane, Rossi, Tseng

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

I, Rosemary Rossi, Clerk of the Governing Board, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the Governing Board of the Los Gatos – Saratoga Joint Union High School District at the regular meeting of March 31, 2015, and maintained on file in the office of said Board.

Rosemary Rossi

Resolution #14-21
Definition of Geographic Isolation
A situation in which the duration and/or safety of the commute between the territory proposed for transfer and the closest school within the school district of residence causes an extreme hardship to the student(s) residing in the territory.

Criteria for Determining Extreme Hardship
The two general criteria for determining extreme hardship are (1) duration of the commute and (2) safety of the commute.

Commute Duration
All "commute safety" criteria being equal, an extreme hardship exists if the length of time to travel between the territory proposed for transfer and the closest school district of residence exceeds the length of time to travel between the territory and the closest school within the desired school district by 20 (twenty) or more minutes.

Commute Safety
The two commute safety criteria to be considered are (1) road and/or street conditions and (2) traffic patterns.

- Road and/or Street Conditions
  All "commute duration" and "traffic pattern" criteria being equal, an extreme hardship exists if "road and/or street conditions" place the student(s) in significantly greater danger during the commute between their homes and the closest school within the school district of residence than during the commute between their homes and the closest school within the desired school district. "Road and/or street conditions" may include, but not necessarily be limited to, width, number of lanes, repair history, speed limit, grade, visibility, frequency of road closures, existence of shoulders or sidewalks, etc.

- Traffic Patterns
  All "commute duration" and "road and/or street conditions" criteria being equal, an extreme hardship exists if "traffic pattern conditions" place the student(s) in significantly greater danger during the commute between their homes and the closest school within the school district of residence than during the commute between their homes and the closest school within the desired school district. "Traffic pattern condition" may include, but not necessarily limited to, volume of traffic, direction of commute traffic, accident history, etc.

The County Committee also may consider exceptional circumstances of a particular territory or area surrounding the territory.
Suzanne Carrig
Administrative Program & Evaluation Specialist
Office of the Superintendent
Santa Clara County Office of Education
1290 Ridder Park Drive MC:243
San Jose, CA 95131-2304
(408) 453-6869
Suzanne_Carrig@sccoe.org

17 May 2015

Re: Proposed Transfer of Territory from Union School District and Campbell
Union High School District to Los Gatos Union Schools District and Los Gatos-
Saratoga Union High School District

Dear Ms. Carrig,

I am writing as a proponent for the Petition to reorganize Los Gatos Schools, and request that the
Petition be granted. I am a resident of Alta Vista and have attended and participated in the
hearings on this Petition.

I have conducted my own research on the issues raised during the public hearings and made
inquiries directly to the individual Los Gatos Schools, in particular the issues of purported
overcrowding and school funding. These findings were shared with Susan Feland, who is
writing separately with those findings and related evidence on behalf of the Alta Vista residents.
I felt compelled to write separately, particularly because my findings directly contradict the
testimony presented by representatives of Los Gatos Schools and the impacted districts. My
apologies if the data presented is duplicative, but I have included it to support my statements
here.

As I stated at the second hearing, granting the request will increase diversity in the area, greatly
improve the community and will not overcrowd Los Gatos Schools – thus, all involved will
mutually benefit from the reorganization. I have raised my children to be tolerant and inclusive
of people from different cultures and to participate and improve the community where they live,
ideals that I believe benefits everyone in our community. Granting this Petition will further these
ideals and values for the entire community and for the greater Santa Clara County.
I. Diversity Matters
I have been a civil rights volunteer my entire life and a legal representative for over 20 years, volunteering in Midwestern and southwestern urban environments in my early career and locally in the Bay area since moving here. In my studies in this area and in my experience in recent movements, I have faced many proponents of racial segregation. In this modern age, we find that while overt racism leading to segregation is rarely seen, more subtle remnants of racially charged attitudes remain. They are found in the actions and behaviors around opposition to Petitions such as this Alta Vista Petition, and de facto segregation still exists as a result.

A. The Petition should be Approved to Improve Diversity in Los Gatos Schools. These racially motivated actions are often centered around an environment of unfairness and unjust exclusion and are charged by feelings of fear of inclusion and change held by those living in tightly held affluent communities such as Los Gatos. Given the statements I have heard from those opposing this Petition and the blatant and clear contradictions in their statements and resolutions, I strongly believe that this is the case here. While the opponents of change and inclusion in Los Gatos proclaim that this Petition is not about race, failure to integrate Los Gatos Schools is itself a slight against progress in diversity. The actions in opposition to the present Petition include typical excuses for excluding diverse students from a substantially all white community. In the case of Los Gatos, over 84% of their population and student makeup is white, while the Alta Vista neighborhood seeking to be included in these schools are only 65% white and include people of a wide variety of races and cultures (Source: Numbers based on 2014 District Race Ethnicity Summaries; http://www.movoto.com/los-gatos-ca/95032/demographics/ http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/0644112.html *Data from Demographic Survey Conducted in Alta Vista April 2015). In my civil rights experience, I have seen affirmative action by private and public institutions make substantial change. And I strongly believe that it is the duty of us as a society to take affirmative actions to counter such exclusion by approving Petitions such as this one. Otherwise, forces against diversity will never go unchecked.

B. Excuses Ignore the Impact and Importance of Diversity. The excuses brought forth are also very typical of opposition to change throughout the civil rights era even before I was born, and it is appalling to see them brought forth today – particularly here in northern California. Those opposing progress and diversity in this action falsely state that:

Los Gatos Schools are over-crowded, and
Los Gatos Schools are under-funded

Both of these assertions have been proven false, as discussed in more detail below. Opponents also opine that Alta Vista neighborhood has always been designated for an outside school district and therefore should remain as such. Some of the Los Gatos residents whose children attend Los Gatos Schools arrogantly posture that the home prices justify this exclusion from Los Gatos Schools regardless of the impact on diversity. None of these positions affirmatively address the impact that this Petition will have on diversity in Los Gatos Schools. This Petition is not about money, it is not about overcrowding, it is not about burdening the current students of Los Gatos Schools.
C. Approval of the Petition is about Unfair and Unjust Exclusion of a Small Group. This Petition is about unfair and unjust exclusion of a small group of people from a community. Allowing this Petition to reorganize Los Gatos Schools will send a message to the people of Santa Clara County that inclusion is the cornerstone of social justice, and that unfair and unjust exclusion denies social justice. Failure to reorganize the schools would exclude of the Alta Vista neighborhood from its own community of Los Gatos and would leave them to go to extreme lengths to transport their children to a strange and unfamiliar community for school. Allowing this Petition would reunite this neighborhood with their community of Los Gatos, where they frequent business and cultural venues when their children are not in school. A reorganized district will substantially improve diversity in Los Gatos and will improve the character of their schools. Failure to reorganize the schools will be a missed opportunity to diversify Los Gatos Schools. Failure to reorganize will not have any effect on Union Schools because the district has a minority white population and thus would not improve the diversity demographics. Thus, approval of the Petition serves the interests of everyone involved and impacted.

Most importantly, increasing Los Gatos’ diversity will be evident in both the student population as well as parental involvement. When parents of diverse races and cultures participate in overly white schools, it exposes the children to other cultures that have been excluded from their lives. Regardless of which environment their parents prefer at home, the students will experience a diverse environment that will enrich their lives and bring about social progress throughout their lives. This will benefit Los Gatos as well as communities throughout Santa Clara County. This is by itself reason to allow this Petition.

Conclusion: Diversity is a significant issue for consideration in approving the Petition, and approval of the Petition would improve diversity in Los Gatos Schools. Accordingly, the Petition should be approved.

II. Los Gatos Schools are not Overcrowded and have Plenty of Room
Supporters of exclusion have tried to convince this board that approving the Petition would overcrowd Los Gatos Schools. Their positions and statements are contradicted by:

1) Public statistics presented by Los Gatos Schools in a public Audit Report,

2) Contradictory statements by the same representatives from Los Gatos Schools in the public Audit Report,

3) Recent statements from representatives of the individual Los Gatos schools, and

4) Statistics and supporting facts in each school’s School Accountability Report Card (SARC) Reports.
A. Contradictory Statements by Los Gatos School Board in Public Audit Report.
The superintendent of Los Gatos Schools stated to this board that the schools are overcrowded, and even pushed resolutions through the Los Gatos School Board declaring as much. However, that same board stated that Los Gatos Schools are in fact not overcrowded (Source: County of Santa Clara Audit Report, June 30, 2014 on page 54 and 58. (“the Audit Report”). It is clear that this school board members and superintendent standing as overt supporters of exclusion will say anything and pass any resolution to suit its own positions. Fortunately, simply saying overcrowding exists does not make it so. This contradiction should serve to discredit all statements by Los Gatos Schools representatives in these hearings, and their statements, positions and resolutions should be given no merit.

B. Future Development will have no effect on Overcrowding. In a future development plan, a potential development called the North 40 is projected to impact Los Gatos schools some time in the future. However, it is not known yet even how many homes will be built in this area, so concern at this time is highly speculative. Moreover, the Los Gatos School District has already negotiated support from the developers of the North 40 in terms of funding for expansion of schools to accommodate these new parcels. Thus, even with the addition of this potential housing development, there is little impact expected on the number of pupils for Los Gatos School District.

C. School Accountability Report Cards (SARC) show NO Overcrowding. SARC reports are required by the California Board of Education show that there is no overcrowding. This is consistent with the Audit Report.

Blossom Hill:  
http://www.lgusd.org/ourpages/auto/2013/7/29/58381448/14%20SARC_Los%20Gatos%20Union%20ESD_Blossom%20Hill%20ES.pdf

Daves Ave.:  
http://www.lgusd.org/ourpages/auto/2013/7/29/58381448/14%20SARC_Los%20Gatos%20Union%20ESD_Daves%20Avenue%20ES.pdf

Lexington:  
http://www.lgusd.org/ourpages/auto/2013/7/29/58381448/14%20SARC_Los%20Gatos%20Union%20ESD_Lexington%20ES.pdf

Van Meter:  
http://www.lgusd.org/ourpages/auto/2013/7/29/58381448/14%20SARC_Los%20Gatos%20Union%20ESD_Louise%20Van%20Meter%20ES.pdf

Fisher:  
http://www.lgusd.org/ourpages/auto/2013/7/29/58381448/14%20SARC_Los%20Gatos%20Union%20ESD_Raymond%20J.%20Fisher%20MS.pdf

SARC info for any school at:  http://www.cde.ca.gov/TA/ac/sa/
D. School Representatives confirm NO Overcrowding and NONE is Expected. Moreover, representatives of the individual schools themselves stated clearly that the Los Gatos schools are under no threat of overcrowding now or in the future. I personally called each school in the Los Gatos School District on May 7, 2015 and spoke to administrators and registrars of each school regarding school population and capacity. All stated very clearly that there is plenty of capacity for any new students and that there is no threat to overcrowding in any of the Los Gatos Schools. All representatives individually stated that student population is cyclical, and that each school is able to accommodate any new students in the coming year and in the future.

Statements by Schools Representatives, each taken Friday afternoon, May 8, 2015:

**Fisher Middle School:** Ms. Kelly Burns stated that classes had 28-29 students/classroom. This is within Santa Clara County limits. Ms. Burns also stated that there is plenty of capacity for new students.

**Lexington Elementary School:** Ms. Jill Mayo stated that current K-3 may go as high as 22-23, and grades 4-5 are only 25 students/classroom. Ms. Mayo also stated that there is plenty of capacity for new students.

**Daves Avenue Elementary School:** Ms. Amy Torres stated that grades K-3 classrooms go to 24 students/classroom, 4-5 go to 29, and are not to capacity. Ms. Torres also stated that there is plenty of capacity for new students.

**Blossom Hill Elementary School:** Ms. Cindy Adams stated that grades K-3 classrooms are up to 25 students, and that grades 4-5 classrooms are up to 29-30, and are not to capacity. Ms. Adams also stated that there is plenty of capacity for new students.

**VanMeter Elementary School:** Ms. Kate Francis stated that K-3 have 24 students/classroom, 4-5 have 29 students/classroom. Ms. Francis stated that there are no problems going over these numbers. Ms. Francis also stated that there is plenty of capacity for new students.

**Lost Gatos High School:** Ms. Betsy Hansen (Registrar) stated that core classes are 30-35 students and that there is plenty of room for new students. They also said that they have programs of around 100 students that are in very small classrooms 10-12 students, with flexible schedules. Ms. Hansen said that there is no problem with overcrowding at LGHS. There is talk about adding more portable classrooms, but that they are not really needed. She also stated that the student size is historically cyclical and is not currently increasing. Ms. Hansen also stated that there is plenty of capacity for new students.

**Saratoga High School:** Ms. Jeanne Jamieson stated that their average class size is 28-29, and their imposed maximum capacity is 32. She also confirmed that there are no problems with overcrowding and no expectation of increases. Ms. Jamieson also stated that there is plenty of capacity for new students.
Statements by these School Administrators Support Approval of the Petition. In direct contradiction to the statements presented by the Los Gatos School District representatives in hearings on this Petition, these administrators and registrars from each of these schools stated that Los Gatos Schools have plenty of extra capacity through 2016, and are currently comfortably under capacity. These administrators and registrars are in the best position to assess the capacity of each school in real time, and are in the possession of the most reliable data. These statements also confirm the numbers and statements in the Audit Report and SARC reports, and the statements further project a reduction in attendance through 2016.

Conclusion: Los Gatos Schools are in no threat of overcrowding by approval of the Petition. Accordingly, the Petition should be approved.

III. Los Gatos Schools are Well-Funded
Funding for the Los Gatos District is not an issue, they are extremely well-funded by substantial property tax funds. From what I understand, because its revenues are so high, only 3% of the Los Gatos School District funding comes from government sources. Diana Abbati seemed stir up confusion when she spoke to this issue to the board, and appeared to leave the impression that Los Gatos Schools were wanting for funds to survive. Judging by the emotional response by the board members themselves, it was clear that he evidence was not well presented or even understood by those opposing the Petition. In fact, it reinforced the conclusion that Los Gatos Schools are actually well funded.

Notwithstanding the self-serving statements of Los Gatos Schools Representatives, the evidence is clear that Los Gatos Schools are well funded. This was further highlighted by statements made at the second hearing on April 21, 2015, by an opponent of the Petition, who stated that iPads and MacBooks, the most expensive digital devices in the market, are essential materials required for students. Under those standards, no school district could ever be adequately funded. Moreover, the residents of the Alta Vista neighborhood are not a poor bunch, and would generously donate to these schools once they are included.

Conclusion: School funding is an insubstantial issue in these proceedings and should not be considered an impediment to approving the Petition. Accordingly, the Petition should be approved.

IV. Community Matters
Throughout this process, it has seemed to me that the concept of community is really central to all of the issues of reorganization, and it is as vital and inseparable as diversity. When it comes to education, the entire community benefits from broad participation by all citizens and cultures.
A. No ties to Union Schools Community. There are few ties with the Union School district, and travel to schools, parks and other community centers is quite demanding on families in the neighborhood. For myself, I have 2 boys, 5 years and 3 years old, both of whom still take naps. To take them to a park in the Union Schools area is simply not possible. I have relatively small windows of time between sleep schedules, leaving very little room for travel time to the San Jose area. When we get there, the neighborhoods are strange to us and our kids, and it is not realistic to make friends and experience community with other people. And, I cannot see any possibility for change in the near future, well into elementary school ages.

B. Strong Ties to Los Gatos Community. In contrast, Blossom Hill Park and School are only 5 minutes away. My kids have more time to play, interact with other kids, and travel is less burdensome on them from day to day. We have a great deal in common with the kids and parents who play there, and the community is very diverse since our neighbors in Alta Vista often join us there. The diversity that we bring to the Los Gatos parks is welcomed by and enriches to the entire community. We also join our neighbors frequenting businesses on Los Gatos Boulevard and downtown Los Gatos, including restaurants, churches, shopping centers, and other businesses. If you asked me for a recommendation for a restaurant or shopping store in the Union School district, I can honestly not come up with anything beyond the local pizza place or convenience store. Thus, Los Gatos is truly our community, and we have no ties to the neighborhoods in and around the Union School district. Reorganizing the schools will be the natural continuum of this community and will complete and improve the community of Los Gatos and surrounding area.

Conclusion: Community is a substantial issue in these proceedings and allowing the Petition would greatly improve the community of Los Gatos and the Alta Vista neighborhood. Accordingly, the Petition should be approved.

In Conclusion:
It is respectfully submitted that approval of the Petition is proper, just, and is in the best interest of Los Gatos, the surrounding community, and diversity progress throughout Santa Clara County. Please approve this Petition for my children and all children of Santa Clara County.

Sincerely,

Dave Stevens
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
   PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
   Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency)________________________
   Santa Clara County Office of Education
   1290 Ridder Park Dr., San Jose, CA 95131
   (Address)

X County Clerk
   County of Santa Clara County

Project Title: Transfer of Territory: Union School District and Campbell Union High School District to Los Gatos Union School District and Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District

Project Location – Specific: Attached is a list of addresses and parcel numbers for the territory proposed for transfer.

Project Location – City: Santa Clara Project Location – County: Santa Clara

Description of Project: Proposal to transfer 59 parcels from USD/CUHSD to LGUSD/LGSJUHSD

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization

Exempt Status: (check one)

☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
X Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Article 19 Section 15320 Class 20
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: ______________________

Reasons why project is exempt: Minor boundary change between to local agencies (school districts).

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Suzanne Carriq Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (408) 453-6869

If filed by applicant:
1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature: ___________________________ Date: __________ Title: Administrative Program & Evaluation Specialist

X Signed by Lead Agency Date received for filing at OPR: __________________

☐ Signed by Applicant