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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TUSD Approves \$95 Million Bond Measure for November Election

The Tustin Unified School District Board of Education voted unanimously on July 28 to put a local bond measure on the Nov. 4 ballot for \$95 million for Tustin neighborhood school renovations.

The bond will go towards repairing and renovating the 20 oldest schools in the District. Among the \$95 million bond amount, \$32 million will be designated for Foothill High School's master plan, \$32 million for Tustin High School's master plan and \$31 million for various elementary and middle schools.

The money would be used for renovations that include repairing and replacing deteriorated roofs, plumbing, lighting and electrical systems; modernizing science labs; upgrading educational technology in the classrooms and libraries; improving school safety; and replacing aging portables with permanent classrooms.

The measure needs 55 percent of the vote to pass in November. If it passes, the tax rate for homeowners would be approximately \$23.75 per \$100,000 of assessed property value for 25 to 27 years. Homeowners who already pay Mello-Roos fees for schools in Tustin Ranch and sections of Irvine that are in the Tustin school district would not be affected by the bond measure.

"This bond measure would be an extension of the next phase of work in the Measure G modernization program," said Deputy Superintendent Brock Wagner. Measure G is Tustin Unified's \$80 million bond which was overwhelmingly passed by voters in November 2002.

During the past six years, Tustin Unified has been involved in the largest repair and renovation project in the District's history. The renovations have focused on life safety, building integrity and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. Projects have included modifications to parking areas, playground areas, landscaping, lighting, fire alarm systems, plumbing, restrooms, drinking fountains, doors, casework and countertops, fire hydrants, curb ramps, wheelchair lifts and other work.

Last year, the District built a new quad at Foothill High School and is currently building a new state-of-the-art science center at the school. The two-story science center will open in the fall 2009 and features biology, chemistry and physics labs; and earth science and physical science classrooms.

Additionally, the TUSD Board of Education recently approved a master plan to guide renovations at Tustin High School. The plan includes the addition of a two-story science center, new administration center, new gymnasium and two-story performing-arts theater and classroom building.

For more information about Measure G, visit www.TUSDMeasureG.org.

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