



Proposition MM:

Facts About Fence Replacement

How many fences have been replaced?

- Under Proposition MM, approximately 117 schools have received or are scheduled to receive new fences as listed in the ballot measure and promised to voters. Of those, 100 have been completed.

Why are fences being replaced?

- The repairs portion of Proposition MM was designed for health and safety of students. Fences that have injured or could potentially injure a student are being replaced.
Of the fences being replaced, the line posts and fence fabric are often rusted, which indicates a weakening of the fence. Also, the rust flakes can damage eyes when the fence is disturbed.
Of the fences being replaced, the line posts are often rotted just above the concrete footing. This is accelerated by San Diego's corrosive soils and sea air which shortens the life expectancy of chain link fences. Prior to Proposition MM, this caused entire fence lines to completely fall over, such as at Bay Park Elementary, Sunset View Elementary and the Wiggin site.
Of the fences being replaced, most have sharp, twisted selvage at the top and/or bottom which has injured students. Putting a plastic cap on the twisted selvage will not keep someone from removing the cap or breakage of the cap in the future. The most cost-effective way to properly address selvage is to replace the fence.
The majority of fences being replaced are 30 - 50 years old and have exceeded their life expectancy.

How did the district decide which fences to replace?

- Prior to Proposition MM being passed in 1998, district inspectors surveyed each and every site and developed a priority list of fencing repair and replacement projects based on worse-case scenarios, current condition, projected future condition and life expectancies.
Fences have been replaced in order of priority, starting with the worst fences several years ago.
The remaining fences continue to demonstrate significant signs of wear, age and weakening. As an added measure, the district is inspecting the remaining fences to verify the need for full or partial replacement.

Would it be less expensive to repair the fences instead of replacing the fences?

- The district does repair fences when this is a better option. However, with older fences, it is more cost-effective to replace an entire fence than to repair it piecemeal with mismatched patches numerous times year after year.

Summary

- Proposition MM is a \$1.51 billion bond measure passed by 78 percent of San Diego voters in 1998. It funds the modernization of 161 existing schools and the construction of 12 new and three rebuilt schools.
Projects at existing schools have included new libraries, new science labs, new classroom buildings, technology infrastructure, upgrades to provide access for the physically disabled, as well as major repairs (roofing, interior/exterior painting, fencing, electrical, plumbing, water in classrooms, lunch court shelters, ceiling tile, flooring, etc.).
The Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee closely monitors Proposition MM implementation and expenditures. ICOC members walk campuses, review project planning documents, monitor community meetings and conduct an audit to verify that the district is effectively using citizens' tax dollars.
For more information about Proposition MM, including maps of the new school sites, go to www.sandi.net/propmm.



### **Has the district has replaced newer fencing?**

- In a few cases, the district has replaced newer fencing to raise the height for security reasons at the school's request.

### **A contractor said he replaced a fence at Miller Elementary that was only three years old. Is that true?**

- No. The fence at Miller Elementary was 30 years old with hazardous, twisted selvage on the top and bottom.

### **How much is the district spending on fence replacement?**

- The district will spend approximately \$15 million on fence replacement.

### **How was the district's fencing contract awarded?**

- The majority of fence replacement projects are being completed through an "Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity" contract. The contract was advertised regionally in a public, competitively bid process. Seventeen contractors came to the bid walk, and two contractors submitted bids on May 12, 2000, one of which was a No Bid. The contractor was awarded the contract on June 5, 2000, after it was determined that the price was fair and reasonable.
- The contract was awarded for one year with four, one-year options and is limited at \$4 million annually. The contract is in its last year option. The contract has been renewed annually because the contractor performed well and because pricing remained competitive as the cost of construction increased significantly.
- The contract has a five percent inflation cap, which has been beneficial to the district considering that labor and materials costs, including fences, have exceeded this inflation rate and continue to rise.
- Some fence replacement projects are being performed under separate contracts by local companies.

### **Some contractors have said they could do our fencing projects for less money. Is this true?**

- School district projects are governed by the state's prevailing wage laws, which may account for the difference of why a non-school district contractor would state they could do it for less.

### **If the money isn't used for fence replacement, can it be used for other needs?**

- Proposition MM funds are specifically allocated for repairing district school's facilities as specified in the ballot. These funds cannot be used for books, computers, furniture, etc.

### **Can the old fences be resold? If so, why replace the fence in the first place?**

- By district and Education Code standards, the majority of fencing is not reusable for school use or in areas near children. Donating the fencing to a charity is appropriate as long as it is not used around children.

### **Why is the fence at Alcott Elementary being replaced?**

- The fence at Alcott Elementary is being replaced for safety reasons. Additionally, it dates to the mid 1950s, has well-exceeded its life expectancy and is a non-district standard fence. The line posts and fence fabric is rusted, and twisted selvage at the top and bottom poses a danger to students.
- Parents at Alcott Elementary have stated that their students have been injured on the fence.
- Specifically at Alcott, the neighbors have encroached on district property by planting on the district's easement and allowing the plants to impact the district's fence. When plantings result in vines that require the fence for support, the weight from the foliage can become a safety issue. Also, it corrodes the fence prematurely and impedes proper maintenance. Additionally, the plants are not desirable around children. Bougainvilleas pose a pricking hazard and morning glories are classified as toxic.

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