

**INDEPENDENT CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT  
COMMITTEE**



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August 17, 2004

Ms. Beth Barber  
Letters Editor  
The San Diego Union-Tribune  
P.O. Box 120191  
San Diego, CA 92112

Dear Ms. Barber:

Subject: "Perfectly good fencing," August 5, 2004 and "Why this fence?" July 12, 2004

Recent local media reports regarding San Diego City Schools fence replacement projects have prompted letters to the editor and require clarification.

Under Proposition MM, 117 schools will receive partial or full fence replacement as specifically listed in the bond measure. The majority of fences being replaced are 30-50 years old, have exceeded their life expectancy, have twisted selvage and rusted fabric that has injured children, pose security threats, and have rotted line posts that have caused entire fence lines to fall over. The district does repair fences when this is a more cost-effective option. In a few cases, the district has replaced newer fencing to raise the height for security reasons, as was done at Roosevelt Middle School. The newer fence fabric is then re-used for repairs at other school sites.

In response to public concerns, the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (ICOC) has conducted an independent investigation of the district's fence replacement projects. The ICOC is an 11-member watchdog group comprised of local businesspersons, industry experts, civil engineers, architects and parents, and is mandated by the bond measure to monitor Proposition MM implementation and expenditures. As part of the investigation, a well-respected, independent fence expert with more than 30 years of experience audited the district's fence replacement projects. The audit has shown that the district's fence replacement projects are diligently planned, fiscally responsible and necessary to ensure the safety and protection of our students.

Citizens are encouraged to visit the "Facts About Fence Replacement" website at which they can access the ICOC's reports, photos and accurate information at [www.sandi.net/propmm/fences.html](http://www.sandi.net/propmm/fences.html).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dorothy Leonard". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dorothy Leonard  
Chair, Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee