



SEQUOIA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

480 James Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94062
650.369.1411 www.seq.org

Crystal Leach, Superintendent

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Carrie Du Bois
Rich Ginn
Amy Koo
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Zahara Agarwal
Jacob Yuryev

April 30, 2024

Gayle Miller, Chairperson
Commission on State Mandates
980 9th Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

RECEIVED
May 01, 2024
**Commission on
State Mandates**

Re: Transitional Kindergarten Program, 23-TC-02 Position: Support

Dear Ms. Miller:

On behalf of the Sequoia Union High School District, I am writing in support of the test claim: Transitional Kindergarten Program, 23-TC-02, which is tentatively scheduled to be considered by the Commission on State Mandates (Commission) at its November 22, 2024, hearing.

California is currently in the second year of phasing in universal transitional kindergarten (UTK). By 2025-26, the state expects all local educational agencies (LEAs) to make transitional kindergarten (TK available to all children who will have their fourth birthday by September 1 of the school year. To assist with the implementation of UTK, the state funds TK average daily attendance by annually rebenching Proposition 98 with General Fund dollars to account for the newly eligible TK students. Over the past two fiscal years, the state has provided nearly \$1 billion in ongoing funding for the implementation of UTK. That annual cost is expected to grow to approximately \$2.7 billion when UTK is fully implemented in 2025-26.

While the state has highlighted its commitment to fund UTK, the funding distribution methodology that is being utilized leaves out community-funded (basic aid) school districts, which means that districts like ours do not receive funding for implementing TK. Although interpretations of current law vary, the state has clearly expressed that TK should be offered by all districts, making it an unfunded mandate for community-funded districts not receiving dollars to implement this new, full grade level.

The requirement for community-funded districts to implement UTK clearly meets the determination requirement of the state imposing a new program or higher level of service on LEAs. The state continues to maintain that implementation of UTK is an expectation of all school districts; however, the state is only providing funding for UTK to state-funded districts. The refusal of the state to provide funding for community-funded districts for UTK implementation, while at the same time maintaining that it is still an obligation to implement, constitutes an unfunded mandate by the state.

For these reasons, we strongly support the test claim filed by the Hope Elementary School District and the Sunnyvale School District. Without support from the Commission on this test claim, community-funded districts will be forced to take funding from other programs that currently serve students in order to implement this new grade.

We implore that the Commission staff recommends the test claim to be approved and that Commission members approve the claim when it is heard this fall.

Sincerely,

Vinita Singh

VINITA SINGH, DIRECTOR- DISTRICT BUSINESS SERVICES
SEQUOIA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

cc: Members and Staff, Commission on State Mandates

DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY EMAIL

I, the undersigned, declare as follows:

I am a resident of the County of Sacramento and I am over the age of 18 years, and not a party to the within action. My place of employment is 980 Ninth Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, California 95814.

On May 6, 2024, I served the:

- **Current Mailing List dated May 6, 2024**
- **Dr. Janet Tufts, Superintendent, Howell Mountain Elementary School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Stacy Allison, Certificated Teacher, Montecito Union School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Virginia Alvarez, Chief Business Official, Montecito Union School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Daniel Berman, Parent, Montecito Union School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Kimberly Berman, 6th Grade Certificated Teacher, Montecito Union School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Mitchell Bragg, Board Member, Montecito Union School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Nick Bruski, Principal, Montecito Union School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Brooke Cloud, Certificated Teacher, Montecito Union School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Kim Crail, Board Vice President, Montecito Union School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Melissa Erickson, Certificated Teacher Education Specialist, Montecito Union School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Alyssa Gonzalez, K-6 Art Specialist Credentialed Teacher, Montecito Union School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Rusty Ito, Vice Principal, Montecito Union School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Lisa Monson, Certificated Teacher, Montecito Union School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Autumn Noe, Classified Staff and Parent, Montecito Union School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**

- **Susannah Osley, Board President, Montecito Union School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Anthony Ranii, Superintendent, Montecito Union School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Jessica Smith, Board Member, Montecito Union School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Melissa Spink, Student Meals Program Coordinator, Montecito Union School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Christina Stokes, Certificated Teacher, Montecito Union School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Linda Trigueiro, Certificated Teacher, Montecito Union School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Selina Wimmel, School Office Assistant, Montecito Union School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Ron Zecher, Certificated Teacher, Montecito Union School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Dr. Nellie Meyer, Superintendent, Mountain View Los Altos School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Dr. Robert Bauer, Trustee, Portola Valley School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Amod Setlur, Trustee, Portola Valley School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Vinita Singh, Director Business Services, Sequoia Union High School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**
- **Dr. Jeanette Rodriguez-Chien, Superintendent, Sonoma Valley Unified School District, Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024**

Transitional Kindergarten Program, 23-TC-02

Statutes 2021, Chapter 44, Section 60 (AB 130);

Education Code Section 48000, Effective July 9, 2021

Hope Elementary School District and Sunnyvale School District, Claimants

by making it available on the Commission's website and providing notice of how to locate it to the email addresses provided on the attached mailing list.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on May 6, 2024 at Sacramento, California.

Jill Magee

Jill Magee
Commission on State Mandates
980 Ninth Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 323-3562

COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES

Mailing List

Last Updated: 5/6/24

Claim Number: 23-TC-02

Matter: Transitional Kindergarten Program

Claimants: Hope Elementary School District
Sunnyvale School District

TO ALL PARTIES, INTERESTED PARTIES, AND INTERESTED PERSONS:

Each commission mailing list is continuously updated as requests are received to include or remove any party or person on the mailing list. A current mailing list is provided with commission correspondence, and a copy of the current mailing list is available upon request at any time. Except as provided otherwise by commission rule, when a party or interested party files any written material with the commission concerning a claim, it shall simultaneously serve a copy of the written material on the parties and interested parties to the claim identified on the mailing list provided by the commission. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1181.3.)

Amber Alexander, *Department of Finance*

Education Systems Unit, 915 L Street, 7th Floor, Sacramento, Ca

Phone: (916) 445-0328

Amber.Alexander@dof.ca.gov

Michael Alferes, Fiscal and Policy Analyst, K-12, *Legislative Analyst's Office*

925 L Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 319-8332

michael.alferes@lao.ca.gov

Brooks Allen, Executive Director, *California State Board of Education (SBE)*

1430 N Street, Suite 5111, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 319-0708

BRAllen@cde.ca.gov

Stacy Allison, Certificated Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*

385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Phone: (805) 969-3249

sallison@montecitou.org

Virginia Alvarez, Chief Business Official, *Montecito Union School District*

385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Phone: (805) 969-3249

valvarez@montecitou.org

Lili Apgar, Specialist, *State Controller's Office*

Local Reimbursements Section, 3301 C Street, Suite 740, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 324-0254

lapgar@sco.ca.gov

Socorro Aquino, State Controller's Office

Division of Audits, 3301 C Street, Suite 700, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 322-7522

SAquino@sco.ca.gov

Harmeet Barkschat, Mandate Resource Services, LLC

5325 Elkhorn Blvd. #307, Sacramento, CA 95842

Phone: (916) 727-1350

harmeet@comcast.net

Robert Bauer, Trustee, Portola Valley School District

4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028

Phone: (650) 851-1777

rbauer@pvsd.net

Ginni Bella Navarre, Deputy Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

925 L Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 319-8342

Ginni.Bella@lao.ca.gov

Daniel Berman, Parent, Montecito Union School District

385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Phone: (805) 969-3249

Dgcberman@gmail.com

Kimberly Berman, 6th Grade Certificated Teacher, Montecito Union School District

385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Phone: (805) 969-3249

kberman@montecitou.org

Mitchell Bragg, Board Member, Montecito Union School District

385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Phone: (805) 969-3249

mbragg@montecitou.org

Robert Bravo, Superintendent, Campbell Union High School District

3235 Union Ave, San Jose, CA 95124-2095

Phone: (408) 371-0960

rbravo@cuhsd.org

Mike Brown, School Innovations & Advocacy

5200 Golden Foothill Parkway, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

Phone: (916) 669-5116

mikeb@sia-us.com

Nick Bruski, Principal, Montecito Union School District

385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Phone: (805) 969-3249

nbruski@montecitou.org

Guy Burdick, Consultant, MGT Consulting

2251 Harvard Street, Suite 134, Sacramento, CA 95815

Phone: (916) 833-7775

gburdick@mgtconsulting.com

Shelby Burguan, Budget Manager, City of Newport Beach

100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660

Phone: (949) 644-3085
sburguan@newportbeachca.gov

Edgar Cabral, Fiscal and Policy Analyst, K-12, *Legislative Analyst's Office*
925 L Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 319-8332
edgar.cabral@lao.ca.gov

Evelyn Calderon-Yee, Bureau Chief, *State Controller's Office*
Local Government Programs and Services Division, Bureau of Payments, 3301 C Street, Suite 740,
Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 324-5919
ECalderonYee@sco.ca.gov

Veronica Causor-Lara, Manager, Internal Audit, *San Jose Unified School District*
855 Lenzen Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126
Phone: (408) 535-6000
vcausorlara@sjusd.org

Carolyn Chu, Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst, *Legislative Analyst's Office*
925 L Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 319-8326
Carolyn.Chu@lao.ca.gov

Brooke Cloud, Montecito Union School District, *Certificated Teacher*
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Phone: (805) 969-3249
bcloud@montecitou.org

Kim Crail, Board Vice President, *Montecito Union School District*
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Phone: (805) 969-3249
kcrail@montecitou.org

Arthur Cuffy, Director of Finance, *San Jose Unified School District*
855 Lenzen Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126
Phone: (408) 535-6000
acuffy@sjusd.org

Margaret Demauro, Finance Director, *Town of Apple Valley*
14955 Dale Evans Parkway, Apple Valley, CA 92307
Phone: (760) 240-7000
mdemauro@applevalley.org

Martina Dickerson, Staff Finance Budget Analyst, *Department of Finance*
Education, Department of Finance, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 445-0328
Martina.Dickerson@dof.ca.gov

Andra Donovan, *San Diego Unified School District*
Legal Services Office, 4100 Normal Street, Room 2148, , San Diego, CA 92103
Phone: (619) 725-5630
adonovan@sandi.net

Jennifer Dudley, Superintendent - Principal, *Fort Ross Elementary School District*
30600 Seaview Road, Cazadero, CA 95421
Phone: (707) 847-3390
jdudley@fortrossschool.org

Melissa Erickson, Certificated Teacher Education Specialist, *Montecito Union School District*
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Phone: (805) 969-3249
merickson@montecitou.org

Donna Ferebee, *Department of Finance*
915 L Street, Suite 1280, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 445-8918
donna.ferebee@dof.ca.gov

Chris Ferguson, *Department of Finance*
Education Systems Unit, 915 L Street, 7th Floor, 915 L Street, 7th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 445-3274
Chris.Ferguson@dof.ca.gov

Diana Galindo-Roybal, Superintendent, *Goleta Union School District*
401 North Fairview Avenue, Goleta, CA 93117
Phone: (805) 681-1200
droybal@gusd.us

Michael Gallagher, Superintendent, *Sunnyvale School District*
Claimant Contact
819 Iowa Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94086
Phone: (408) 522-8200
michael.gallagher@sesd.org

Brianna Garcia, *Education Mandated Cost Network*
1121 L Street, Suite 1060, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 446-7517
briannag@sscal.com

Len Garfinkel, General Counsel, *California Department of Education*
1430 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 319-0860
lgarfinkel@cde.ca.gov

Brett Geithman, Superintendent, *Larkspur-Corte Madera School District*
230 Doherty Drive, Larkspur, CA 94939
Phone: (415) 927-6960
bgeithman@lcmschools.org

Juliana Gmur, Acting Executive Director, *Commission on State Mandates*
980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 323-3562
juliana.gmur@csm.ca.gov

Alyssa Gonzalez, K-6 Art Specialist Credentialed Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Phone: (805) 969-3249
agonzalez@montecitou.org

Heather Halsey, Executive Director, *Commission on State Mandates*
980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 323-3562
heather.halsey@csm.ca.gov

Gary Hanning, President, *Portola Valley School District*
Board of Trustees, 4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028

Phone: (650) 851-1777
ghanning@pvdsd.net

Tiffany Hoang, Associate Accounting Analyst, *State Controller's Office*
Local Government Programs and Services Division, Bureau of Payments, 3301 C Street, Suite 740,
Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 323-1127
THoang@sco.ca.gov

Anne Hubbard, Superintendent, *Hope Elementary School District*
Claimant Contact

3970 La Colina Road, Suite #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110
Phone: (805) 682-2564
ahubbard@hopeschooldistrict.org

Rusty Ito, Vice Principal, *Montecito Union School District*
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Phone: (805) 969-3249
rito@montecitou.org

Jason Jennings, Director, *Maximus Consulting*
Financial Services, 808 Moorefield Park Drive, Suite 205, Richmond, VA 23236
Phone: (804) 323-3535
SB90@maximus.com

Angelo Joseph, Supervisor, *State Controller's Office*
Local Government Programs and Services Division, Bureau of Payments, 3301 C Street, Suite 740,
Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 323-0706
AJoseph@sco.ca.gov

Doug Kimberly, Superintendent, *Lake Elsinore Unified School District*
545 Chaney Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530
Phone: (951) 253-7000
Doug.Kimberly@leusd.k12.ca.us

Jennifer Kuhn, Deputy, *Legislative Analyst's Office*
925 L Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 319-8332
Jennifer.kuhn@lao.ca.gov

Lisa Kurokawa, Bureau Chief for Audits, *State Controller's Office*
Compliance Audits Bureau, 3301 C Street, Suite 700, Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 327-3138
lkurokawa@sco.ca.gov

Audin Leung, Student Leader, *Free the Period California*
1 Shield Ave, Pierce Co-op TB14, Davis, CA 95616
Phone: (415) 318-9343
freetheperiod.ca@gmail.com

Kristin Lindgren-Bruzzone, General Counsel, *California School Boards Association*
3251 Beacon Boulevard, West Sacramento, CA 95691
Phone: (916) 669-3243
klindgren-bruzzone@csba.org

Diego Lopez, Consultant, *Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee*
1020 N Street, Room 502, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 651-4103
Diego.Lopez@sen.ca.gov

Everett Luc, Accounting Administrator I, Specialist, *State Controller's Office*
3301 C Street, Suite 740, Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 323-0766
ELuc@sco.ca.gov

Jill Magee, Program Analyst, *Commission on State Mandates*
980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 323-3562
Jill.Magee@csm.ca.gov

Christine Mallery, CBO Associate Superintendent, *Fremont Union High School District*
589 W. Fremont Avenue, PO Box F, Sunnyvale, CA 94087
Phone: (408) 522-2200
christine_mallery@fuhisd.org

Darryl Mar, Manager, *State Controller's Office*
3301 C Street, Suite 740, Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 323-0706
DMar@sco.ca.gov

Tina McKendell, *County of Los Angeles*
Auditor-Controller's Office, 500 West Temple Street, Room 603, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: (213) 974-0324
tmckendell@auditor.lacounty.gov

Michelle Mendoza, *MAXIMUS*
17310 Red Hill Avenue, Suite 340, Irvine, CA 95403
Phone: (949) 440-0845
michellemendoza@maximus.com

Nellie Meyer, Superintendent, *Mountain View Los Altos High School District*
1299 Bryant Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94040-4599
Phone: (650) 940-4650
nellie.meyer@mvla.net

Lisa Monson, Certificated Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Phone: (805) 969-3249
Lmonson@montecitou.org

Paige Moore, Business Manager, *Nevada City School District*
800 Hoover LN, Nevada City, CA 95959
Phone: (530) 265-1823
pmoore@ncsd.k12.ca.us

Kimberley Morris Rosen, Trustee, *Portola Valley School District*
4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028
Phone: (650) 851-1777
kimberley.morris@gmail.com

Marilyn Munoz, Senior Staff Counsel, *Department of Finance*
915 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 445-8918
Marilyn.Munoz@dof.ca.gov

Kris Munro, Superintendent, *Santa Cruz City Schools District*
133 Mission St, Santa Cruz,, CA 95060
Phone: (831) 429-3410
superintendent@sccs.net

Melissa Ng, Staff Finance Budget Analyst, *Department of Finance*
Education, 915 L Street, 7th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 445-0328
Melissa.Ng@dof.ca.gov

Connie Ngo, Chief Business Official, *Portola Valley School District*
4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028
Phone: (650) 851-1777
cngo@pvsd.net

Michelle Nguyen, *Department of Finance*
Education Unit, 915 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 445-0328
Michelle.Nguyen@dof.ca.gov

Andy Nichols, *Nichols Consulting*
1857 44th Street, Sacramento, CA 95819
Phone: (916) 455-3939
andy@nichols-consulting.com

Autumn Noe, Classified Staff and Parent, *Montecito Union School District*
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Phone: (805) 969-3249
autumnoe@gmail.com

Susannah Osley, Board President, *Montecito Union School District*
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Phone: (805) 969-3249
sosley@montecitou.org

Arthur Palkowitz, *Law Offices of Arthur M. Palkowitz*
Claimant Representative
12807 Calle de la Siena, San Diego, CA 92130
Phone: (858) 259-1055
law@artpalk.onmicrosoft.com

Kirsten Pangilinan, Specialist, *State Controller's Office*
Local Reimbursements Section, 3301 C Street, Suite 740, Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 322-2446
KPangilinan@sco.ca.gov

Anthony Ranii, Superintendent, *Montecito Union School District*
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Phone: (805) 969-3249
aranii@montecitou.org

Roberta Raper, Director of Finance, *City of West Sacramento*
1110 West Capitol Ave, West Sacramento, CA 95691
Phone: (916) 617-4509
robertar@cityofwestsacramento.org

Seth Reddy, *San Jose Unified School District*
855 Lenzen Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126

Phone: (408) 535-6000
sreddy@sjusd.org

Sandra Reynolds, President, *Reynolds Consulting Group, Inc.*
P.O. Box 891359, Temecula, CA 92589-1359
Phone: (888) 202-9442
rginc19@gmail.com

Jeanette Rodriguez-Chien, Superintendent, *Sonoma Valley Unified School District*
17850 Railroad Avenue, Sonoma, CA 95476
Phone: (707) 935-4246
jchien@sonomaschools.org

Cindy Sconce, Director, *MGT*
Performance Solutions Group, 3600 American River Drive, Suite 150, Sacramento, CA 95864
Phone: (916) 276-8807
csconce@mgtconsulting.com

Rena Seifts, Associate Superintendent, *Sonoma Valley Unified School District*
17850 Railroad Avenue, Sonoma, CA 95476
Phone: (707) 935-4246
rseifts@sonomaschools.org

Amod Setlur, Trustee, *Portola Valley School District*
4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028
Phone: (650) 851-1777
asetlur@pvdsd.net

Camille Shelton, Chief Legal Counsel, *Commission on State Mandates*
980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 323-3562
camille.shelton@csm.ca.gov

Carla Shelton, *Commission on State Mandates*
980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 323-3562
carla.shelton@csm.ca.gov

Steve Shields, *Shields Consulting Group, Inc.*
1536 36th Street, Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 454-7310
steve@shieldscg.com

Natalie Sidarous, Chief, *State Controller's Office*
Local Government Programs and Services Division, 3301 C Street, Suite 740, Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: 916-445-8717
NSidarous@sco.ca.gov

Vinita Singh, Director District Business Services, *Sequoia Union High School District*
480 James Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94062
Phone: (650) 369-1411
vsingh@seq.org

Jessica Smith, Board Member, *Montecito Union School District*
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Phone: (805) 969-3249
jsmith@montecitou.org

Melissa Spink, Student Meals Program Coordinator, *Montecito Union School District*
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Phone: (805) 969-3249
mspink@montecitou.org

Christina Stokes, Certificated Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Phone: (805) 969-3249
cstokes@montecitou.org

Amy Tang-Paterno, Educational Fiscal Services Consultant, *California Department of Education*
Government Affairs, 1430 N Street, Suite 5602, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 322-6630
ATangPaterno@cde.ca.gov

Sarah Tellez, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, *Los Gatos Union School District*
17010 Roberts Road, Los Gatos, CA 95032
Phone: (408) 335-2000
stellez@lgusd.org

Jolene Tollenaar, *MGT Consulting Group*
2251 Harvard Street, Suite 134, Sacramento, CA 95815
Phone: (916) 243-8913
jolenetollenaar@gmail.com

Linda Trigueiro, Certificated Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Phone: (805) 969-3249
ltrigueiro@montecitou.org

Janet Tufts, Superintendent, *Howell Mountain Elementary School District*
525 White Cottage Rd. N., Angwin, CA 94508
Phone: (707) 965-2423
jtufts@hmesd.org

Brian Uhler, Principal Fiscal & Policy Analyst, *Legislative Analyst's Office*
925 L Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 319-8328
Brian.Uhler@LAO.CA.GOV

Bree Valla, Superintendent-Principal, *Vista Del Mar Union School District*
Vista de las Cruces School, 9467 San Julian Rd., Gaviota, CA 93117
Phone: (805) 686-1880
bvalla@vdmusd.org

Chris Vanden Heuvel, Superintendent, *Healdsburg Unified School District*
1028 Prince Street, Healdsburg, CA 95448
Phone: (707) 431-3488
cvandenheuvel@husd.com

Kay Vang, Chief Business Official, *St. Helena Unified School District*
465 Main Street, St. Helena, CA 94575
Phone: (707) 967-2708
kvang@sthelenaunified.org

Adam Whelen, Director of Public Works, *City of Anderson*
1887 Howard St., Anderson, CA 96007

Phone: (530) 378-6640
awhelen@ci.anderson.ca.us

Selina Wimmel, School Office Assistant, *Montecito Union School District*
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Phone: (805) 969-3249
swimmel@montecitou.org

Colleen Winchester, Senior Deputy City Attorney, *City of San Jose*
200 East Santa Clara Street, 16th Floor, San Jose, CA 95113
Phone: (408) 535-1987
Colleen.Winchester@sanjoseca.gov

Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, Deputy Executive Director for Legislative Affairs, *California State Association of Counties (CSAC)*
1100 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 650-8104
jwong-hernandez@counties.org

Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, *Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee*
California State Senate, State Capitol Room 5019, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 651-4103
elisa.wynne@sen.ca.gov

Bruce Yonehiro, Chief Counsel, *California Department of Education*
1430 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-5901
Phone: (916) 319-0860
BYonehiro@cde.ca.gov

Roberta Zarea, Superintendent, *Portola Valley School District*
4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028
Phone: (650) 851-1777
rzarea@pvsd.net

Ron Zecher, Certificated Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Phone: (805) 969-3249
rzecher@montecitou.org

Helmholt Zinser-Watkins, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, *State Controller's Office*
Local Government Programs and Services Division, Bureau of Payments, 3301 C Street, Suite 700,
Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 324-7876
HZinser-watkins@sco.ca.gov