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News Release

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LAUSD BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTES UNANIMOUSLY TO SUPPORT A NOVEMBER 2008 \$7 BILLION SCHOOL REPAIR BOND

(Los Angeles, CA) – The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education voted unanimously today to put before voters a \$7 billion local school facilities repair bond measure on the November 4, 2008 election ballot.

“We have a bold and optimistic vision for LAUSD that includes the \$7 billion bond proposal for November. We will continue to work with stakeholders, teachers, parents and advocates to build the school District our students deserve,” LAUSD Board President Mónica García said.

The bond would make possible a variety of critical improvements needed across LAUSD’s schools to ensure safe, healthy and modernized facilities. In addition to meeting critical repair and safety needs, other priorities of the bond include upgrading schools to modern technology and educational needs, creating capacity to attract, retain and graduate more students through a comprehensive portfolio of small high quality Pre-K through adult schools, and promoting a healthier environment through green technology.

“We can all agree that providing students the best possible learning environments for our students is a priority,” LAUSD Superintendent David L. Brewer III said. “There is no question that our students deserve safe, healthy and modernized schools and the fact is there is a tremendous need to bring our facilities up to par.”

Additional projects defined in the bond proposal would renovate and replace school buildings to ensure current earthquake safety standards are met, reconfigure special education centers to teach living and career skills, build and upgrade early childhood education and adult and career education facilities, improve energy and water conservation, build and upgrade specialized classrooms students need to meet job and college requirements, and provide new seats to reduce class sizes and ensure all schools are able to continue to operate on a traditional two-semester calendar.

Since 1997, a series of four voter approved local bonds (Propositions BB and Local Measures K, R, and Y), have provided approximately \$13 billion for the New School Construction and Modernization Program. The Program has made significant strides in providing students adequate school facilities, adding more than 74,000 new classroom seats to enable students to return to their neighborhood schools.

Despite the significant progress made, LAUSD still has an estimated \$60 billion in capital improvement needs Districtwide, which the passage of this bond will help address.

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