



CALIFORNIA LEAGUE OF BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES
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November 21, 2012 - CaLBOC Press Release

For Immediate Release

**THE CALIFORNIA LEAGUE OF BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES (CaLBOC)
Recognizes the Importance of School Bond Oversight Committee Members**

Volunteers on Citizens' Bond Oversight Committees (CBOC) are responsible in overseeing approximately \$95 billion of school construction bond projects in California. CaLBOC was formed by current and former CBOC members who wanted to find better training to help them perform their duties. Many times CBOC members may not have adequate training and support needed to oversee complicated bond projects. CaLBOC offers free help to bond oversight committee members realizing how difficult and important volunteering on CBOCs can be in protecting our tax dollars and assuring safe school facilities.

Since the year 2000 there have been over \$83 billion dollars in Proposition 39 general obligation bonds ("GO") issued by school and community college districts for construction projects in California. On November 6th California voters approved 85 of 106 School Construction Measures for an additional \$12.8 billion. A requirement of proposition 39 school bonds is that districts are to form an oversight committee to oversee school bond expenditures.

Oversight members may be overseeing multi-million dollar school bond projects with very little training and support. They may not be given the information needed to ensure school bonds are expended as required by law. CBOC members are appointed by school boards who may have possible conflict-of-interest issues. It is not uncommon for businesses that may be benefitting from school bond programs to donate large campaign contributions to bond measures and school board campaigns. Oversight over Prop 39 bonds can be extremely difficult and must depend on volunteers to go that extra mile.

The CaLBOC Executive Committee voted on Nov. 9, 2012 to formally recognize CaLBOC Board member Alicia Minyen for her contributions while serving on the Mount Diablo Unified School District (MDUSD) CBOC. Alicia garnered media attention when she asked for the documentation the CBOC needed to review bond expenditures. She submitted a formal public request and was charged a fee for documents.

Resolution of the CaLBOC Executive Committee

The California League of Bond Oversight Committees (CaLBOC) recognizes the contributions of Ms. Alicia Minyen during her service as a member of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District Measure C 2010 Citizens Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC).

Ms. Minyen assumed her responsibilities as taxpayers' advocate at a time when the committee faced serious challenges to its independence and ability to perform its public duty. In spite of many obstacles and an adversarial attitude on the part of district leadership, Ms. Minyen dug into different aspects of the bond program, and revealed a number of possible violations of the law, as well as a pattern of inadequate public access. Her work attracted local media attention to the district's actions, and the public is now far better informed than was the case previously.

Ms. Minyen's work with CaLBOC enhanced the organization's ability to expand its efforts in developing best practices for CBOC's, which were recommended by the 2012 Contra Costa Grand Jury in its report on all CBOC's within the county.

Ms. Minyen's performance is exemplary of the finest tradition of civic volunteerism, and she is to be commended.

For more information on CaLBOC please visit: www.calboc.org

The next Contra Costa County CaLBOC Chapter meeting is Dec. 1, 2012 in Martinez: CCCC2.eventbrite.com

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If you would like more information on this press release please contact:
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LINKS:

Sept. 1, 2011: <http://concord-ca.patch.com/articles/bond-committee-member-plans-further-record-requests>

<http://www.ibabuzz.com/onassignment/2011/08/18/mdusd-bond-oversight-committee-meeting-to-address-questions-about-spending-audits/>

<http://www.ibabuzz.com/onassignment/2012/06/11/a-look-back-at-2008-mdusd-board-brown-act-accusation/>

Summary:

CaLBOC recognizes the important contributions of volunteers that are overseeing approximately \$95 billion dollars in school construction bond programs in California. On Nov. 9, 2012 the Executive Board voted to recognize Alicia Minyen's contributions while she served on the Mt. Diablo USD CBOC. Ms. Minyen's work with CaLBOC enhanced the organization's ability to expand its efforts in developing best practices for CBOC's, which were recommended by the 2012 Contra Costa Grand Jury in its report on all CBOC's within the county. On Dec. 1st the local Contra Costa County CaLBOC Chapter will have a meeting where a main topic will be the Grand Jury Report on School Bond Oversight Committees.

About CaLBOC

CaLBOC is an all-volunteer, non-partisan association of Citizen Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) members, current and past, who are interested in helping other CBOC members. CBOC members trying to find better training to help them perform their duties formed CaLBOC in 2006. The first training session was held in San Jose in 2007, and incorporated in the State of California in 2008. In 2009 they were recognized as a 501(c)3 charitable organization by the IRS.

Mission Statement

To promote school district accountability by improving the training and resources available to California's Proposition 39 School Bond Oversight Committees and educating the state legislature, local school boards and the public about the oversight and reporting powers these Citizens' Bond Oversight Committees (CBOCs) have, and to advocate on a state level, where appropriate, on issues of common concern to all CBOCs.

Proposition 39

Prop 39 requires school districts that pass Proposition 39 bonds to seat a Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) to assure the community that bond funds are expended in the fashion outlined in the district's bond resolution. The CBOC shall actively review and report on the proper expenditure of taxpayers' money for school construction.