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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Chula Vista Education Leaders Vote to Negotiate a Local Hire Agreement with Career Training Opportunities**

CHULA VISTA, CA – Last night, the School Board of the Chula Vista Elementary School District (CVESD) voted 4-1 to negotiate a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council and their unions. PLAs ensure that local tax dollars have the greatest impact on the local economy by creating quality jobs and supporting training, apprenticeships, and careers for local workers.

PLAs are also known as Community Workforce Agreements or Project Stabilization Agreements, and are a type of contract used in the construction industry to set the terms and conditions of employment on large projects of long duration and design complexity. PLAs help ensure that construction projects are delivered on time and within budget, and that quality standards and workplace safety is achieved.

PLAs benefit the community with good-paying local jobs for the residents of Chula Vista and training opportunities for disadvantaged workers, along with opportunities for small or minority-owned businesses. PLAs invest in communities by ensuring every employee has access to a fair wage, health care, and pension benefits so that he or she can support a family. The influx of family-supporting wages connected to long-term careers alleviates burden on public assistance programs, increases the tax base, and creates a boon to the local economy.

CVESD Boardmember Francisco Tamayo advocated for joint labor/management apprenticeships that build community ladders with job training opportunities and pathways to middle-class careers. These apprenticeships allow workers to “learn while they earn” with on-the-job training and top-notch classroom education from skilled and experienced craftspersons.

“As stewards of tax payer dollars, I seek to ensure that local tax dollars have the greatest impact on our local community and economy by creating quality jobs and supporting careers for local workers,” said Mr. Tamayo.

Tom Lemmon, Business Manager of the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council, declared “this is an exciting opportunity to leverage public tax dollars and create good-paying jobs and long term careers for local residents of Chula Vista. Our highly skilled craftspersons will deliver top-quality buildings for our children, and a PLA will spur the hiring of local residents and create opportunities for local contractors, union and non-union alike.”

During public testimony, advocates of working families spoke strongly in favor of PLAs and noted that large companies such as Toyota, Disney, and Bechtel choose to use PLAs for their private construction projects because quality workmanship is profitable and socially responsible.

The San Diego Unified School District and the Southwestern Community College Districts have embraced these agreements and their projects are being completed on time and within budget while creating careers for local residents. Additionally, the City of Long Beach made news last week when their City Council unanimously adopted a citywide PLA with local hire provisions and opportunities for disadvantaged residents and veterans.

CVESD will now open PLA negotiations with the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council, and seek input from the public. Once an agreement has been reached, the CVESD School Board will consider the adoption of the PLA at a public meeting.

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