

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release



CUSD Recall Petitions Approved Trustees Sheila Benecke and Marlene Draper to Face Recall

Santa Ana, CA. Today the CUSD Recall Committee received confirmation the Orange County Registrar of Voters had approved the Petition to Recall Capistrano Unified School District Trustees Sheila Benecke and Marlene Draper. Recall Proponents may now formally begin the process of collecting signatures from 10% of the registered voters in the School District to qualify the recall election. They have 160 days to circulate and submit petitions. The grounds for the recall read as follows:

“You have permitted a culture of corruption to infect our school district.

You permitted district personnel to use scarce district resources to create unlawful lists of your political “enemies” -- including children. You engaged in illegal closed session meetings where district business was conducted in secret. You and your staff repeatedly provided false information to the public regarding district finances. You failed to effectively control your staff – even giving your former superintendent (now indicted for multiple felonies) a standing ovation and lucrative retirement package just hours after police investigators armed with search warrants raided his office.

You grossly mismanaged district finances.

You are recklessly spending \$52,000,000 on an administration building and over \$140,000,000 for a single high school next to a dump -- while our schools are in dire need of repairs and students are crammed into substandard portable classrooms with non-functioning restrooms. Your reckless deficit spending has created a self-inflicted, multi-million dollar budget crisis that has put our children at risk and resulted in massive program cutbacks – overcrowding classrooms and severely diminishing the quality of education.

You have arrogantly disregarded the public by repeatedly ignoring problems until they become crises.

You have broken the public’s trust.”

Petitions may be obtained by contacting the CUSD Recall Committee website at www.cusdrecall.com.

The CUSD Recall Committee is the organization that has led the multi-year effort to raise public awareness about the widespread government corruption and serious financial mismanagement within the leadership of the Capistrano Unified School District.

In 2005, the CUSD Recall Committee led South Orange County residents in the unprecedented campaign to recall all seven elected Trustees of the Capistrano Unified School District. More than 177,000 signatures were obtained from South Orange County residents calling for the removal of all seven CUSD Trustees.

In November 2006, the CUSD Recall Committee's three "ABC Reform Slate" candidates (Ellen Addonizio, Anna Bryson and Larry Christensen) were elected to the CUSD Board of Trustees by landslide margins of victory.

In May 2007, as part of the on-going criminal investigation of the CUSD leaders, former CUSD Superintendent James Fleming was indicted on three felony counts (misappropriation of public funds, use of school funds to improperly defeat the CUSD Recall Committee's 2005 recall campaign, and conspiracy). If convicted, Fleming could serve up to four years in prison.

To learn more about these important issues, please visit our website at www.cusdreCALL.com or contact:

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