

COURTS: SCHOOL DISTRICT CAN'T SPEND BOND MONEY ON PROJECTS NOT DISCLOSED TO VOTERS, COURT OF APPEAL RULES

The Fourth District Court of Appeal on April 25 ordered the publishing of its March 26 decision in [Taxpayers for Accountable School Bond Spending v. San Diego Unified School District](#), which holds that the school district is barred from using proceeds of a 2008 school bond (Proposition S) for field lighting at high school stadiums, because Proposition S did not specifically list field lighting as a project to be funded by the bond.

The measure approved by voters contains a specific list of projects, including replacement of stadium bleachers and “Upgrade fields, track, and courts for accessibility compliance” at Hoover High School, but the list makes no mention of lighting.

The Court of Appeal noted that the state constitution requires that a school bond that has a 55 percent vote threshold must, among other things, contain “a list of the specific school facilities projects to be funded.” School districts can seek bonds without such a list, but the bond measures face a higher vote threshold – at least a two-thirds vote.