



**Region 9 Board of Governors
2015 – 2016**

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October 18, 2016

To: **Region 9 Members**

From: **Jay H Higgins, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE**
Region 9 Director

Re: **November Ballot Initiative - Proposition 51 – Kindergarten Through
Community College Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2016**

Support Position

Region 9 represents over 18,000 California members of the American Society of Civil Engineers. The Region 9 Board of Governors has voted to Support the November ballot initiative Proposition 51. The Board is requesting the Region 9 members vote “Yes” on Prop 51 on November 8th. Please also encourage your family and friends to vote Yes.

California’s school construction has traditionally been funded by three distinct sources: locally approved bonds or parcel taxes, developer fees on new construction and a statewide general obligation bond that matches local school construction funding. The last state bond – passed in 1998 – has been depleted and Proposition 51, if approved by the voters, will authorize \$9.0 billion in new bonds.

For more than 15 years, a successful partnership between local school districts and the state has overseen the construction of safe and secure classrooms for 1.3 million-plus children and modernized facilities for over 3.4 million more. This current model of funding construction also levels the playing field for school districts that serve low-income communities, allowing high-needs school districts to leverage every dollar they invest.

Proposition 51 will give our 6.2 million students safe schools and the keys to a quality education by:

- **REPAIRING AND UPGRADING OLDER SCHOOLS:** Upgraded classroom technology, science labs and libraries are essential to compete in the global economy.
- **BRINGING SCHOOLS UP TO BASIC HEALTH & SAFETY STANDARDS:** Retrofitting for earthquake safety, accessibility, fire safety systems, alarms, smoke detectors as well as removing asbestos and lead paint and pipes are critical for our communities and children.
- **EXPANDING OFFERINGS AND RELIEVING OVERCROWDING:** More classrooms mean smaller numbers of students per classroom. Enhanced vocational facilities help students and veterans get the skills they need to get jobs. The simple fact is that for every billion dollars invested in new school construction and modernization work, 13,000 jobs are created.

Proposition 51 makes sense for California students, teachers and parents.

Please vote **YES on Proposition 51.**