NEWS RELEASE

Chula Vista Educators & Sweetwater Education Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South County Educators Demand Halt to Charter School Expansion
Teachers Demand District Reject Charter School Co-Location

CHULA VISTA—The Chula Vista Educators (CVE) and Sweetwater Education Association (SEA) demand transparency from the Chula Vista Elementary School District (CVESD) governing board regarding plans to expand Arroyo Vista Charter School by co-locating the middle school at numerous elementary campuses throughout the CVESD at the Wednesday, April 22 board meeting.

The CVESD announced plans in February to create Arroyo Vista Charter School satellite campuses, for seventh and eighth graders only, and identified fifteen possible elementary campuses as potential sites for co-located campuses next year including: Allen, Casillas, Eastlake, Finney, Harborside, Juarez-Lincoln, Lauderbach, Los Altos, Montgomery, Miraleste, Otay, Parkview, Roter, and Valle Lindo. These plans have far-reaching impacts that will fundamentally change those elementary school sites where middle schools will be placed. The Chula Vista Elementary School Board will vote on the plan this week.

CVE President Susan Skala says, “The CVESD has an obligation to conduct a thorough impact study on the effect of middle school expansion on the Arroyo Vista charter school program, the CVESD, and the Sweetwater Union High School District (SUHSD). The material revision of the Arroyo Vista charter fails to provide specific details regarding intended locations of satellite campuses, as is required by California Education Code 47602.” Skala also addressed the need for transparency before taking plans such as these forward, “Unquestionably, parents and community stakeholders at these schools should have an opportunity to provide input before CVESD makes any final decisions.”

SEA President Julie Walker explains, “The entire South County community should have grave concerns regarding the strain this will place on Sweetwater Union High School District (SUHSD). The SUHSD is the feeder district for all South County elementary schools, and any move which undermines our high school district, already in financial crisis, will have an enormous impact on current and future SUHSD students, many of whom are part of the CVESD family.” Additional unaddressed issues include:

- 7th-8th grade students at satellite campuses having access to lab science, counseling support, certain A-G classes including math and foreign language, as well as PE and other electives that prepare students for high school.
- How campuses will be redesigned for middle school students. Transitional Kindergarten to 6th graders will now share a campus with 7th-8th graders. Current sites are not designed to keep older students separate (bathrooms, locker rooms for PE).
- Acting without an impact study on SUHSD prevents both districts from avoiding adverse outcomes.
- Satellite expansion of Arroyo Vista will likely place additional demands on the Arroyo Vista program and its staff.
- No discussions have taken place with staff or stakeholders at potential host sites.
- Impact to current SUHSD students who are part of the CVESD family. Anything that undermines the SUHSD hurts current SUHSD students.
- COVID-19 will likely drive the need for schools to have more space for social distancing. Advancing district co-locations that increase student numbers on any campus before knowing more is premature and irresponsible.

The 1,400 member CVE and 2,000 member SEA are affiliated with the 310,000-member California Teachers Association and the 3 million-member National Education Association.