



CITY OF LA PALMA NEWSRELEASE

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For Immediate Release
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La Palma Adopts Resolution Supporting Open School Enrollment

LA PALMA, Calif. – At its March 18, 2008, City Council meeting, the La Palma City Council unanimously voted to adopt a Resolution supporting Senate Bill 1445. The Bill, authored by State Senator Tom Harman, would allow students in La Palma to attend La Palma schools, regardless of school district boundaries.

The City of La Palma, at just two square miles, is intersected by five school districts. As a result, many children in the north half of La Palma attend schools several miles from their homes when within City limits there are three elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school -- all generally within walking distance of any home in the City.

Several times in the past, residents have unsuccessfully attempted to have the school district boundaries in La Palma redrawn. Senate Bill 1445 would leave the boundaries intact, but would allow La Palma residents to choose to attend either a school in La Palma or their normally assigned school.

At the City Council meeting, 12 residents spoke in favor of the Bill, receiving applause from the audience that filled most of the City Council Chambers. The City has also received numerous emails and phone calls supporting the measure. No statements in opposition have been received at this time.

During the deliberations on the Resolution supporting the Bill, Councilmember Mark Waldman said, "Senate Bill 1445 would solve one of the most intractable, unjust problems facing residents of La Palma. For far too long, La Palma children living north of Houston Street have been bused several miles to schools outside the City, instead of attending neighborhood

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schools with their friends.” Additionally, Mayor G. Henry Charoen said, “All La Palma residents should be able to go to La Palma schools, period.”

Senate Bill 1445 is scheduled to be heard by the Senate Education Committee on April 9 in Sacramento. At the suggestion of Councilmember Ralph Rodriguez, all five Councilmembers are scheduled to attend the Committee meeting in Sacramento to voice the City’s strong support for the Bill.

Comments on the Bill should be sent to Senator Harman’s District Office at 950 South Coast Dr., Ste 240, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 or residents can register their support or opposition to Senate Bill 1445 by calling Senator Harman’s local office at (714) 957-4555.

About the City of La Palma

The City of La Palma is a 1.9 square mile general law city in northwest Orange County, consisting of 16,081 residents and 482 commercial and industrial businesses. The City was incorporated in 1955 under the name of Dairyland and has 65 full-time and 53 part-time employees.

Contact Information

Laurie Murray
City Clerk
City of La Palma
7822 Walker Street
La Palma, CA 90623
Tel: (714) 690-3338
Fax: (714) 523-2141
Email: lauriem@cityoflapalma.org