

## **Letter to the Editor – Daily Press**

**Oct. 31, 2016**

### **Support Barstow school bond**

Nearly fifteen years ago, director of the California Office of Public School Construction Mr. Ted Dutton hired our firm, The Bradco Companies, to inspect all of the Barstow region school facilities. I spent a full day inspecting the facilities, going from campus to campus, including nearby Hinkley. Upon my return I called Mr. Dutton immediately and told him how deplorable I found the situation and that a lot of money was obviously needed for campus maintenance. I told him that upgrades were definitely in order to give the Barstow area students a more desirable atmosphere to learn in that would motivate them to attend school.

That was then, this is now. Fifteen years later, the conditions are worse and there is a greater need, now more than ever. To wait much longer would be the difference between maintaining and repairing or spending even more money to replace critical items that can no longer be saved.

While none of us like any taxes, I believe the upcoming \$39 million general obligation bond by the Barstow Unified School District is essential if we are going to continue to attract employers and investment capital to the Barstow region. As a real estate professional, I know that when agents within the Barstow region talk to potential home owners or companies looking to relocate, one of the most important, if not the most important factors considered is education: the quality of education and the school facilities themselves.

I actually believe that the Barstow Unified School District needs more than the \$39 million general obligation bond, but this is a great start. It sends a message to the investment community, the development community, and to employers looking to move to the region that the Barstow Unified School District Board of Trustees is committed to making its school district one of the best in San Bernardino County and the state. The citizens of Barstow need to invest in their future: their children. It is crucial that the people vote Yes for the Barstow Unified School District General Obligation Bond.

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