

## **News Release**

*For Immediate Release: October 3, 2003*

### **East Side Students Learn From the Recall Election**

The historic California Recall Election looms on the horizon and students in the East Side Union High School District have the opportunity to be educationally involved and earn classroom credit. The focus will be on engaging students in the electoral process.

Yerba Buena High School social studies teachers Maryann Haggarty and Debbie Perez had students in their classes create an election project website. Yerba Buena's Digital Coordinator, Bruce Selzler, worked with students on the development of the website. The site features student-researched information and opinions on leading candidates. There are worksheets, a lesson plan, links to other websites, a non-voters survey, and a digital ballot box.

When Superintendent Esperanza Zendejas saw the early stages of the Election Project in action at Yerba Buena, she put into motion the prospect of opening the site to all East Side social studies classes. Superintendent Zendejas in her memo to district social studies teachers stated, "This is an opportunity to get our students involved 'hands on' in critical issues with follow-up discussions regarding the importance of voting. I strongly support teachers that help instruct, lead and model students to become contributing members of our society. One such way of becoming involved is through voting."

As a result, on Monday, October 6, social studies classes in all our high schools will have the opportunity to participate in the district-wide Yerba Buena Election Project Lesson and cast their votes in the mock election. The results will be posted on the actual election day, Tuesday, October 7.

This project will be used as a model ongoing district-wide use of internet technology to engage students, teachers, and parents in critical issues important to all of us." said Superintendent Zendejas.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

***Lorraine Guerin,***  
***Director of Planning 408.347.5040***

#### **Board of Trustees**

J. Manuel Herrera, President  
Juanita Ramirez, Vice President  
Patricia Martinez-Roach, Clerk  
Craig Mann, Member  
George Shirakawa, Member

#### **Superintendent**

Esperanza Zendejas, Ed.D.

