

\* **F.2 Parcel Tax Renewal / Extension Resolution No. 90-1112**

Comment:

In 2004, the voters approved a parcel tax that has helped to fund reduced class sizes, counselors, librarians, custodial services, and athletics. This parcel tax, which annually brings \$9.6 million into the district, was renewed in 2008 with 79% of voters supporting it. Over the past four years, the District has spent the parcel revenue prudently and in alignment with the measure with fully accountability through annual audits and review by the Community Budget Advisory Committee.

Since the approval in 2008, the State of California has dramatically reduced funding for K-12 education. By statute the per pupil revenue limit for 2012-13 should be \$6,742 but due to the financial crisis and the Legislature's inability to fund public education in California, West Contra Costa Unified School District will receive only \$4,911. The total loss of revenue to WCCUSD is more than \$40 million. The Board has demonstrated financial stewardship in making expenditure reductions including closing schools, capping employee health benefits, requiring employees to take furlough days, raising class sizes, and reducing or eliminating many programs that had served the students of the District. In adopting a budget for 2011-12, the Board used several one-time funding sources such as the Federal Stimulus money to keep essential programs and services. Yet, the District faces a deficit of \$4.7 million for 2012-13 as well as the loss of one-time federal stimulus funds.

At the November 16, 2011 meeting, Bryan Godbe from Godbe Research presented the results of a survey that the Board had authorized in September 2011. The survey results show the voters are willing to support a renewal of the current parcel tax and small increase that would help the District continue to fund key programs and services to get through the current financial hardship.

Recommendation:

That the Board approve ballot language and Resolution No. 90-1112 authorizing a parcel tax renewal / extension on the June 5, 2012 ballot.

Fiscal Impact:

Provide \$13.6 million each year for 5 years for programs and services to students.