

# New school wrong for San Pedro

San Pedro residents, are you aware of what the Los Angeles Unified School District is trying to do? The district is proposing to build a new high school in the southern-most part of San Pedro.

The district claims this new high school will relieve overcrowding at San Pedro High; however, it will not reduce class sizes. If San Pedro and Narbonne high schools are overcrowded, then use the money to build two-story classrooms at those locations.

To build a new school only three-quarters of a mile south of San Pedro High is ridiculous. Schools should be where the student population resides, not as far away as possible.

According to LAUSD's Preliminary Analysis of Enrollment Dynamics, October 2007, student enrollment is declining. Why build a new school at all? LAUSD should make some immediate changes to solve the problem now. Return campuses to K-6, 7-9, 10-12 grades.

In a newsletter dated April 17, Superintendent David L. Brewer stated that the proposed budget cuts could be staggering for LAUSD. They could threaten to increase class size and reduce per-student spending.

He stated that LAUSD might have to close up to 22 high schools, lay off 5,750 district employees, close all LAUSD schools and offices for 12 days, cut costs of employee health benefits by more than half or impose an 8 percent salary cut for every teacher, principal and administrator. In the same newsletter, he announced the hiring of a senior deputy superintendent. If he is considering layoffs, why is he hiring an additional employee with a six-digit salary?

This proposal is again showing how poorly LAUSD is run. Is it time we separated San Pedro from LAUSD and ran our own school district? It can be done, with common sense in budgeting, controlled spending, sensible hiring practices and good business practices.

Let's stop this schoolyard bully from ruining our community.

- PAM MEISEL

San Pedro