

VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Green Schools Resolution
Resolution #08-14

WHEREAS, the Ventura community has a positive reputation for its innovative leadership in environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the Ventura Unified School District has the potential to make positive, tangible, environmental change while teaching students to be stewards of their communities, the earth, and its resources; and

WHEREAS, change within schools can help catalyze change in the broader society; and

WHEREAS, this District has considerable opportunity through its purchasing power to improve its environmental footprint, benefiting both the environment and its financial condition; and

WHEREAS, our current school facilities frequently use energy, water, and other resources unsustainably; and

WHEREAS, schools consume natural resources, including energy, water, food, and paper, and they generate waste materials, including garbage, runoff, and air emissions, which contribute to the world's larger environmental problems such as global warming, water pollution, air pollution, and habitat destruction; and

WHEREAS, the District expends considerable financial resources on cleaning supplies, energy, water, office supplies, and educational materials; and

WHEREAS, exposure to harmful chemicals could result in negative impacts on health, learning, teaching, and working; and

WHEREAS, many options and choices exist for schools to use natural resources more efficiently; to reduce, reuse, and recycle; and to purchase clean energy and environmentally preferable products and supplies to protect our global environment; and

WHEREAS, schools have a tremendous opportunity to teach students about ecological sustainability, environmental health, and nutrition while meeting math, science, social studies, and arts standards and to support students to become leaders in making their own school a healthier and more ecologically friendly place; and

WHEREAS, excellent work is already underway in the District, undertaken by teachers, parents, administrators, students, staff, and volunteers including our school gardens, farm-to-school salad bar program, integrated pest management, recycling, health and nutrition programs, energy conservation and other programs; and

WHEREAS, this framework creates a long-term, inspiring vision that integrates and strengthens many efforts in our District; and

WHEREAS, fully implementing this resolution will take time, and must be achieved in stages;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that to promote healthier, more environmentally sustainable schools, teaching, by example, environmental stewardship and leadership, and gather input and expertise from the entire community, the Board of Education of the Ventura Unified School District directs the Superintendent to create the Ventura Unified Green Schools Committee and charges it to develop and recommend policies consistent with this resolution for the Board to adopt; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee will include parents, administrators (at least one each from the Purchasing, Facilities, and Transportation Departments), community members, at least one student representative from our middle schools and one student representative from our high schools, and one Ventura Unified Board Member appointed by the Board of Education.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee will develop and recommend to the Board of Education, policies for adoption that are consistent with state standards and with Ventura Unified School District's overarching goal of providing safe, healthy, high performing schools that reflect environmental awareness, environmental stewardship, and fiscal responsibility; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Superintendent and the committee will report to the Board of Education semi-annually on the committee's progress toward meeting the goals and objectives of Ventura Unified School District as they pertain to environmental stewardship, sustainability, and fiscal responsibility, as defined by this resolution and by the Ventura Unified Green Schools Committee.

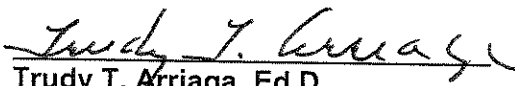
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Ventura Unified School District, County of Ventura, State of California, this 24th day of June, 2008.

AYES:	<u>5</u>
NAYS:	<u>0</u>
ABSENT:	<u>0</u>
ABSTAIN:	<u>0</u>

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was duly introduced, passed and adopted at a regularly called and conducted meeting held on said date.


John B. Walker, President
Governing Board

ATTEST:


Trudy T. Arriaga, Ed.D.
Superintendent and Secretary to the Governing Board