

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **SFUSD Mello-Roos Parcel Tax Renewal**

#### **What is it?**

A Mello-Roos Parcel Tax was passed in 1990 to **keep schools safe** after the Loma Prieta earthquake. Every year, it generates \$6.9 million dollars to provide earthquake, fire and life safety in San Francisco's 150 public school buildings. It also provides for necessary school maintenance and repairs for our classrooms.

The tax is set to expire this year, and we need to continue it so that we can continue to keep our schools fire and earthquake safe.

#### **What exactly does the money go to?**

These funds help with seismic strengthening, fire and life-safety, including fire alarm systems, fire sprinklers, and paths of exiting. It funds the salaries of employees who work directly on repairing and keeping our schools safe.

#### **How much is it and how long will it last?**

This tax is \$32.20 for single-family homes and commercial properties, and \$16.10 per dwelling unit for mixed-use and multi-family residential parcels. If we renew it in 2010, it will continue and last another 20 years. Everyone's tax bill will remain the same, and it generates approximately \$6.9 million dollars a year for school safety.

#### **Is there a senior exemption?**

Yes. Anyone over the age of 65 can apply for an exemption from this special property tax.

#### **Why is the school district pursuing a renewal for such a small amount of money for fire and life safety maintenance when our schools are facing massive budget cuts from the state?**

Continuing this safety tax won't solve all our problems, but it will help keep our schools safe. Renewing it also ensures we don't have an even bigger budget hole than we already do. It is a necessary step to make sure our schools don't suffer even greater cuts at the expense of mandatory earthquake and fire safety work.