WHO DOES COCOTAX REALLY REPRESENT?

COCOTAX pretends to represent the average Contra Costa taxpayer. Nothing could be further from the truth.

A look at the COCOTAX Board roster tells the real story. It includes notable corporate tax avoiders like:

DOW CHEMICAL
TESORO REFINERY
SHELL REFINING
USS-POSCO
ATT

COCOTAX REPRESENTS CORPORATIONS, NOT YOU.

DON’T BE FOOLED!

COCOTAX IS BOUGHT AND PAID FOR BY CORPORATIONS.

Prepared by Concerned Contra Costa Citizens
FROM: SUSAN SWIFT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TO: [REDACTED]
DATE: MAY 1, 2012
RE: RESPONSE TO A.B.C. PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT STUDY

This is in response to your inquiry about the Project Labor Agreement (PLA) cost study in circulation. The study, entitled *Measuring the Cost of Project Labor Agreements on Construction in California* (Study) was prepared for the National University Institute for Policy Research (NUIPR). The Study was partially funded by the Associated Builders and Contractors, a lobbying group that is adamantly opposed to the use of PLAs and who represent less than 1% of the 400,000 contractors licensed in California. **Peer review by credible experts rejects this study’s conclusion that PLAs increase school construction costs.**

This study relied heavily on prior research incorporated from two earlier academic studies; a 2003 study performed by the Beacon Hill Institute at Suffolk University and a 2010 study performed by Dr. Dale Belman, (Professor, School of Human Resources at Michigan State University) along with his four research partners. After reviewing the ABC-funded study, Dr. Dale Belman wrote Eric Brunvold (NUIPR) noting that:

- The Study’s conclusion was not supported by the research contained in the Study.
- The Study overlooked important factors that affect costs.
- The Study misinterpreted and drew erroneous conclusions from Dr. Belman’s work.

Dr. Belman concluded his letter to Mr. Brunvold as follows: "**When appropriate controls are included for differences in the characteristics of schools built including school type and location, building specifications, materials used, etc., there is no statistical evidence that PLA schools are more costly compared to non-PLA schools.**"

Please do not hesitate contacting us if you have any questions.