

## SAVE OUR CHINATOWN COMMITTEE

拯救中國城 委員會

[www.saveourchinatown.org](http://www.saveourchinatown.org)

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### *Chinatown Land Swap FAQ Sheet*

#### THE CONTROVERSY

- In October 2010, the Riverside County Office of Education, owner of the Riverside Chinatown site, filed a legal notice of intent to **give** the Chinatown site to developer Doug Jacobs in exchange for empty, undeveloped land that Jacobs owns in Moreno Valley. The Save Our Chinatown Committee calls on supporters to tell the Riverside County Office of Education NO to the proposed land exchange!

#### BACKGROUND

- In 2008, the Save Our Chinatown Committee (SOCC) challenged the land sale and the City's approval of the medical building. In 2009, the Riverside County Superior Court ruled against the RCBOE, stating that it did not follow the correct procedures when attempting to dispose of the Chinatown site as "surplus property." That is, they did not properly offer it to developer Doug Jacobs.
- The SOCC's legal challenge to the Riverside County Office of Education (RCBOE), developer Doug Jacobs, and the City of Riverside is not yet resolved: the appeals process is still underway.
- The RCBOE's original argument for selling the Chinatown site was that they needed the money to create schools in Indio. The Moreno Valley site would not be used for a school. The land exchange proposal states that "no students or regularly scheduled classes would be housed at the project site. The likely uses would include supporting facilities for various administration and business services operations of RCBE, which would include, but not be limited to, providing spaces for offices, small warehouse/storage, maintenance, or technological infrastructure." In other words, there are no immediate plans for use of this site, so why do this now?

#### RIVERSIDE'S CHINATOWN

- Riverside's Chinatown is a nationally and internationally significant cultural heritage site. It is recognized at four levels of significance, including the National Register of Historic Places."
- See [www.saveourchinatown.org](http://www.saveourchinatown.org) for extensive information about the site and SOCC's fight to save it.

## THINGS TO CONSIDER

- The archaeological site is a unique cultural resource. The RCBOE claims that the proposed land exchange will not have any effect on the archaeological site. Does digging it up and destroying the site constitute no effect?
- Doug Jacobs tried to destroy the archaeological remains on President's Day weekend 2009. The SOCC stopped him with a court injunction. The legal owner of the site was, and still is, the RCBOE, not the developer. Did the developer act with the approval of the RCBOE?
- The Riverside County Board of Education adopted a Minute Order on March 21, 1990 regarding the criteria for the utilization and disposition of the Chinatown site. The Minute Order states that "The cultural, historical and archaeological values of the site will be preserved [by the RCBOE]." How does the proposed land swap preserve the cultural, historical and archaeological values of the site?
- The RCBOE is an educational service agency. Their core values are "Building relationships that promote trust, engaging in open and honest communication, and focusing on the needs of students and children." Does the proposed land exchange reflect those values? (<http://www.rcoe.k12.ca.us/aboutRCOE/values.html>.)

## SUBMIT COMMENTS TO:

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**Please copy [saveourchinatown@gmail.com](mailto:saveourchinatown@gmail.com) on emails so we can monitor the response.**

Let us know if we have permission to post or quote from your comments should the need arise. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**