Dear [insert name of Board member],

I’m a resident of the \_\_\_\_\_\_ community and am opposed to your plan to lease the Black Mountain Ranch site to Costco or any big box alternative. If this land is surplus, there are far better uses for this land. Additionally, I am concerned about the lack of transparency by PUSD as required by CA state education code.

Despite PUSD indicating that “no one has been chosen” or “it’s not finalized yet,” you invited a Costco representative to participate at the court hearing on Nov 20, 2020. Why was Costco part of PUSD’s legal strategy? To an area resident, this indicates that PUSD is not following proper procedure and intends to enter a lease with Costco.

I am disappointed by how the PUSD Board Members, staff, and consultants managed this whole process. You did not follow the California State-mandated education code process to ensure that community input was taken into consideration. I read the court transcript and am surprised by how the PUSD attorneys characterized the events leading up to today. Can you still justify the surplus status of this land from the old data? I am shocked by the following quotes from your attorney at the court hearing:

PUSD Attorney:

1. “The district has already done more than it’s required to obtain community input.”
2. “Oftentimes, in these situations, there’s vocal community members who are disappointed, who believe that the process was against their best interest, but the board is required to consider that with other comments from the community and then make the decision that’s in the best interest of the district”
3. “The community input process is not intended and does not require the district to get the community involved in determining which proposal is the best and what value it has.”

Who in the community supports this? Comments submitted to PUSD Board meetings indicate overwhelming opposition to the Costco lease. There has not been a SINGLE public comment indicating support for this lease.

I encourage PUSD to stop its discussions with Costco and begin working with the community to find the best use of this land.

Sincerely,