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$8 Million Allotted For New Schools

The state Allocation Agency has granted more than $8 million to the San Diego Unified School District to replace school buildings that do not meet earthquake safety requirements.

The schools affected are Memorial Junior High and La Jolla, Hoover and Point Loma senior high schools.

CLOSED SESSION

The action, which took place Monday in Sacramento during closed session with the board's legal advisers present, occurred despite legal steps begun last month to prevent the board from allocating the money.

A lawsuit by the state League of Women Voters asked the state Supreme Court to intervene because rebuilding schools in their present locations would perpetuate racial imbalance.

San Diego city schools, though not a party to the suit, were cited as being in a district where discrimination would be perpetuated.

"The board did consider the possibility of legal action when they assigned the funds," said Jack Swoboda, supervisor of fiscal services for the state Department of General Services.

"Unless the court later rules that payments must cease, however, they will be made," he added.

$3 MILLION ALLOCATED

Swoboda said the Hoover High replacement, which requires buying 2.3 acres of land adjacent to the current site, received $3,042,000, the biggest allocation to San Diego.

La Jolla, which will gain one acre, received $2,037,700 in state aid. Point Loma, which also will add an acre, got $1,671,900 and Memorial was allocated $1,917,000, according to Swoboda.

The state covers approximately 58 per cent of the total replacement bill and local districts must furnish the rest through a special override tax and bond elections, if necessary.

The board also gave Grant Elementary School, financed through a previous board action, an additional $204,000 for its project.

OTHER CITIES

In addition to San Diego, the board yesterday awarded $689,000 to the San Francisco Unified School District and $296,719 to the Los Angeles City Unified School District for earthquake safety programs, according to news reports.

Ralph Stern, San Diego city schools attorney, wrote the clerk of the state Supreme Court last month asking them not to intervene. "To slow down or stop this vital program when school districts have acquired sites, demolished buildings, retained architects and awarded contracts, is an irresponsible request," wrote Stern.

He also pointed out that under the law it is the responsibility of local school districts and not the state Allocation Agency board, to determine the location of schools.