

Annual Report to the Community
SAN MATEO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Measure C Bond Oversight Committee
February, 2006

In November, 2001, voters in San Mateo County overwhelmingly approved Measure C which provided \$207 million in funding to update, modernize, and retrofit the three community colleges serving County residents: Cañada College, College of San Mateo and Skyline College. One of the key components of Measure C was the establishment of a Measure C Bond Oversight Committee, composed of community leaders with expertise in finance, accounting, education and local government. The 11-member Committee is charged with the responsibility to assure voters that bond proceeds are expended only for construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or replacement of College facilities in compliance with the projects listed in the Measure C ballot language, and that no funds are used for teacher or administrator salaries or for other operating costs.

During the past year, the Bond Oversight Committee met quarterly to review the District's bond project plans, timelines and proposed expenditures. At each meeting, the Committee was provided with financial and project plan updates describing the bond-related activities undertaken by the District during the quarter.

The accounting firm of Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP (VTD) conducted both a financial and a performance audit of the fourth fiscal year of bond expenditures and activities. The firm found that the bond fund financial statements present fairly the financial position and results of operations for the fund. As part of a performance audit, VTD reviewed expenditures in the bond fund for the 2004-05 fiscal year and found that the use of funds was consistent with the stated purposes of the bond measure that was approved by voters. During the 2004-05 fiscal year, the District expended \$95,340,853 and committed an additional \$42,850,529 for bond projects Districtwide. The total of all bond funds expended or committed to date is \$138,191,382—which is 67% of the total bond amount authorized.

The 2004-05 San Mateo County Grand Jury issued a report on “School Construction Management in San Mateo County” which pointed to the College District’s construction management program as a model for other school districts in the County to follow. In fact, the County Grand Jury requested that the County Superintendent of Schools develop a single set of policies and procedures to be used by schools within the County, and specified that these procedures should be “modeled after the processes currently being employed at the San Mateo County Community College District.” Finally, the Grand Jury Report found that:

“After years of experience, the San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD) has developed proven policies and procedures for construction planning and management. These techniques have been employed successfully for capital improvement projects on the three San Mateo college campuses.”

In October 2005, the College District received a Flex Your Power Award, in recognition of its leadership in energy efficiency projects. The District made dozens of energy efficiency improvements to 55 buildings across three campuses in 2004 and 2005. The measures, which ranged from installation of energy-efficient lighting to installation of advanced cogeneration units that generate clean electricity on-site and reuse waste heat to heat the campuses, cut the District's energy consumption by 56% and saved more than 7.2 million kWh and \$1 million annually. The District is constructing new buildings that are up to 42% more energy efficient than required by code, and has installed synthetic turf athletic fields that save 5.8 million gallons of irrigation water annually. These improvements, funded by rebates, voter-approved bonds, State grants and local redevelopment funds, will avoid 3,200 tons of CO² of utility emissions annually--the equivalent of planting more than 900 acres of trees--and reduce the load on the State's power grid by 6.7 million kWh, the equivalent of 1,800 homes

In the 2004-05 fiscal year, the Facilities staff and District and College administrations continued extensive planning, scheduling and campus consultation regarding the scope and sequence of the major bond projects (modernization, new construction, repair) that are taking place at all three Colleges. The District has invested a considerable amount of staff time (not funded by the bond) in pre-construction planning and consultation activities in order to assure that bond project funds are efficiently and effectively expended on College improvements that will benefit students for generations to come. The District staff has also worked aggressively to secure additional State, local and private funding to supplement the Measure C bond funds. To date, the District has secured more than \$90 million from these sources and anticipates that it will be successful in securing another \$20 million for facilities projects from various State sources e.g., community college capital outlay and deferred maintenance funds, and funds from the voter-approved Statewide educational facilities bond.

The major activities that took place during the past year include:

- "Topping Out" ceremonies were held for both the Student Support & Community Services Center and Science Annex buildings at Skyline College. "Topping out" commemorates completion of a building's core structural elements, as the final piece of structural steel is placed. The Skyline College flagship project budget has been increased from \$23.7 million to \$26.2 million to accommodate increased scope, including interior build-out of the bookstore and food service areas; investment in upgraded ceiling, floor and lighting finishes with lower maintenance and energy costs and enhanced acoustics, light quality and ergonomics; and improved security systems. The Student Union at Skyline College will provide a cafeteria, bookstore, community meeting spaces, study areas, and offices for the Associated Students' organization as well as student clubs. The Science Annex will house state-of-the-art science labs and support spaces.
- The new Science Building at College of San Mateo was also "Topped Out" this year, and the primary structure will be substantially complete by the end of February 2006. This CSM flagship project budget has been increased from \$24.8 million to \$25.4 million, again to accommodate increased scope, including

increased Planetarium Star Projector functionality, investment in upgraded ceiling, floor and lighting finishes - with lower maintenance and energy costs and enhanced acoustics, light quality and ergonomics - and improved security systems. The Science Building will provide a new technologically-sophisticated home for the physical and life sciences at CSM.

- The Cañada College flagship project, the new Library and Student Resources Center, broke ground in August and construction is well under way. This project is primarily funded through State Capital Outlay grants totaling \$23 million. The District is contributing \$7.4 million in Measure C Bond funding. The project will complete the campus, providing vertical access (elevators and stairs) from the primary parking areas down to the main quad level. The three story building features library services on the upper floors and a fully integrated student services “one-stop shop” at the quad level.
- Districtwide energy efficiency projects are nearly complete. Light fixtures throughout the District were retrofitted in 2005, installation of co-generation facilities at the College of San Mateo and Skyline College were completed and the systems commissioned and brought on line. These co-generation facilities enable the two colleges to generate 50% of their peak electrical load, and allow conservation of 25% of their annual natural gas consumption. Extensive mechanical infrastructure upgrades and repairs were installed in 46 buildings on the three campuses. The cost for the energy efficiency improvements will be paid back from these savings in less than 19 years, which the Bond Oversight Committee believes is a prudent investment of bond funds.
- Extensive work to repair the infrastructure at all three Colleges. The CSM campus was built more than 40 years ago and Cañada and Skyline Colleges are each 35+ years old; all three Colleges were in desperate need of infrastructure replacement and repair. Projects included new boiler tubing; upgrades and extensions of utilities including the electrical and gas distribution systems, water mains, storm drains, sanitary sewers, clock, fire alarm, telephone and data systems; underground heating/hot water system piping; and additional fire hydrants.
- At College of San Mateo, in addition to the new Science Building, projects included renovation/modernization of classrooms in Buildings 16, 18 and 19 (academic classrooms). The Building 18 seismic upgrade and modernization project was delivered a full semester ahead of the original construction schedule and under budget. Hazardous materials abatement and ADA accessibility improvements, various individual classroom upgrades including installation of technology infrastructure and audio-visual equipment to support modern pedagogical methods, and installation of a new, state-of-the-art fire alarm system were all completed this year.
- At Skyline College, in addition to the new Student Support & Community Services Center and Science Annex, projects included extensive renovation of the Pacific

Heights School building and various other areas on the main campus to accommodate departments and classrooms displaced by other construction projects and ADA/accessibility improvements campus wide. Academic classroom building 8 and gymnasium building 3 are both undergoing seismic upgrades and modernizations.

- At Cañada College, in addition to the Library and Student Resources Center, two modular buildings were converted from office space to much needed, large general lecture classroom facilities. Infrastructure upgrades and repairs were made to service the new building, and a new chiller with adequate capacity to provide air conditioning to the majority of the buildings on campus was installed. The chiller will provide cooling to Buildings 3 and 9 in the near term. Piping has been installed to various other buildings around campus, allowing economical connection to the chiller as the interior systems of these buildings are modernized and upgraded to provide cooling. The campus south quad was renovated, repairing a chronic leak, replacing cracked paving and installation of ADA accessible pathways and ramps through the center of campus. Sixty-five faculty and administrative offices were upgraded during Summer 2005, including new paint, flooring, window treatments and ergonomically correct furniture. The aged campus fire alarm system was replaced.

The Measure C Bond Oversight Committee is pleased with the results of the District's efforts. More detailed information about the College District's bond projects, timelines, and expenditures-to-date are available on the District's web page: smccd.net. From the first page, go to "Quick Links" and go the Bond Oversight Webpage, where you can find the bond projects list, minutes, agendas and reports considered by the Bond Oversight Committee. If you still have questions or concerns, please contact the Bond Oversight Committee at christensen@smccd.net.

The Bond Oversight Committee invites community members to attend its meetings which are held quarterly at the College District Office, 3401 CSM Drive, San Mateo CA 94402. All meetings are open to the public; meeting dates and agendas are posted on the District web site.

Measure C Bond Oversight Committee :

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