



College of the Desert Citizens' Oversight Committee 2009-2010 Annual Report

For Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2010



Letter from the Measure B Citizens' Oversight Committee Chair

Dear Coachella Valley Residents:

The Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee presents its sixth annual report as required by Proposition 39, the legislative authority of Measure B. As your local representatives, it is our responsibility to oversee the expenditure of bond funds to assure they are spent as specified in the ballot measure.

Measure B was overwhelmingly approved by voters in March 2004, and, as required by the terms of the issue, the College Board of Trustees appointed an independent Citizens Oversight Committee. Your seven members represent a cross-section of the Coachella Valley.

Our open meetings are held quarterly to review and discuss progress reports related to bond projects in various stages of development, expenditures of bond funds, as well as future plans and financial projections. As a committee, we have been very impressed with the College's highly organized planning, attention to detail, and diligence of staff to assure most efficient management of bond projects.

On the Palm Desert Campus, construction on the Donald and Peggy Cravens Student Services Center was completed in the Spring of 2010. The renovations on the Business Building and Dining Hall were also finalized. The campus infrastructure, the underground work to install new utilities, was completed as well. A ground breaking was held for the new Classroom Building slated to open in Spring 2012.

Elsewhere, the District is in the planning phase for campuses in Palm Springs and Indio. The Palm Springs location, known as West Valley Campus, will be a highly sustainable campus comprised of classrooms and offices on an initial site of approximately 10 acres. This campus will focus on studies in Allied Health, Hospitality and Tourism, Media & the Arts, and Sustainability Technology, as well as basic education courses and demonstrate in its buildings and site the commitment to responsible use of resources that the District is committed to. Completion of this first phase is anticipated for 2014.

In Indio, a three story building housing classrooms, offices and multiuse rooms will be located near the Indio Civic Center. Programs currently being held in leased space in the County Building will relocate when this building is ready in 2013.

These voter approved projects address the College's most critical facility needs, including safety issues, energy savings, technology, enrollment growth, and expanding career training programs in response to community needs. This is just the beginning of many positive changes that will enable College of the Desert to continue to provide an opportunity for a first-class education for a growing number of youth and adults in the Coachella Valley. The College improves the quality of life for the entire region through its training of professionals and workers for the economic base industries of the valley.

Information on past and future meetings and the on-going bond projects can be found at the College of the Desert's Website www.bond.collegeofthedesert.edu. We welcome all members of the public to our meetings. Feel free to contact us with your comments or questions.

Sincerely,
Robert A. Spiegel, *Committee Chair*

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Grand Opening Celebration: The Donald and Peggy Cravens Student Services Center named for the longtime friends of College of the Desert, opened in April 2010. More than 350 people gathered for the ceremony including the Cravens, their friends, area officials, and college faculty, staff and students.

MEASURE B

In March 2004, the citizens of the Coachella Valley approved a general obligation bond measure of \$346.5 million dollars to fund facilities projects to train local residents for jobs, prepare students for four-year colleges, accommodate increasing student enrollment at College of the Desert by:

- Expanding nursing/police/fire-fighting training facilities;
- Repairing sewer systems, leaky roofs, decaying walls, plumbing, electrical systems;
- Upgrading/adding classrooms for computer technology;
- Repairing, acquiring, constructing, equipping buildings, sites, classrooms; and
- Acquiring sites and developing campuses in east and west valley areas.

The Board of Trustees of the Desert Community College District evaluated the District's urgent and critical facility needs, including safety issues, enrollment growth, energy reduction and information and computer technology in developing the scope of projects to be funded. These are outlined in the College of the Desert Facilities Master Plan, approved on November 19, 2003, and shall be further amended from time to time. In developing the scope of projects, the faculty, staff and students have prioritized the key health and safety needs so that the most critical needs are addressed. The Board of

Trustees conducted independent facility evaluations and received public input and review in developing the scope of the college facility projects to be funded. The projects are listed in the Facilities Master Plan which was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees. This input of faculty, staff, and community and business leaders concluded that if these needs were not addressed now, the problems would only get worse. In preparing the Facilities Master Plan, the Board of Trustees made five important determinations:

- It is critically important for College of the Desert to provide facilities for job and vocational training to students and adults seeking to acquire job skills demanded by local businesses;
- College of the Desert must provide facilities to increase the number of trained nurses to help relieve the serious nursing shortage in the area;
- College of the Desert must add new facilities and classrooms to meet the rapid growth in the area which has resulted in thousands of new students seeking an affordable local college education;
- College of the Desert must provide facilities for academic programs to students who want to transfer to a four-year college; and
- The mission of College of the Desert is to provide facilities that support adult continuing education classes in subjects like financial planning, accounting and computers.

AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE OF THE CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Measure B was approved under the requirements of California's Proposition 39, the Strict Accountability in Local School Construction Bonds Act, passed by state voters in 2000. As required by Proposition 39, the College of the Desert Board of Trustees appointed an independent committee of citizens to oversee the expenditure of all bond funds. Proposition 39 requires representatives from taxpayer groups, business and industry, senior citizens' organizations and students, and is charged with ensuring that all bond funds are spent as promised on capital projects within the college district.

Since September 2004, the Committee has been meeting regularly to review the College's bond-funded construction program and to ensure the program maximizes all funding sources and makes the most prudent use of taxpayer dollars. The Committee is also charged with assuring that the College adheres to the requirements of Proposition 39, including spending funds only on those projects identified in Measure C and approved by the voters.

Incoming Bond Oversight Committee Members for 2010-2011



Seven people are responsible for overseeing the \$346.5 million bond issue approved by voters in March 2004 for College of the Desert construction and campus renovations. The group meets quarterly to review expenditures and to see that the Proposition 39 guidelines are followed. They're responsible for an audit and an annual report. They (and the constituencies they represent) are, from left, top row: Mr. Geoffrey S. Kiehl, Member-At-Large East Valley Representative, Director of Finance & Treasurer, City of Palm Springs; Ms. Berit Reistad, Senior Citizen Group Representative, Community Service Representative, Home Instead Senior Care; Mr. Daniel To, Student Representative, College of the Desert Student; Mr. Lawrence M. Cohen, Business Representative, Senior Managing Director and Shareholder, Mesirow Financial; (bottom row) Mr. William H. Waldron, Member-At-Large West Valley Representative, Retired, 3M Company; Mr. Robert A. Spiegel, College Support Organization Representative, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Palm Desert; and Mr. Robert Flint, Taxpayers' Association Representative, Retired, Manager of Mission Valley Mall, San Diego.

2009-10 Citizens' Oversight Committee Members

Mr. Al A. McCandless
Chair,
Business

Mr. Geoffrey S. Kiehl
East Valley

Mr. Kenneth Feenstra
West Valley

Mr. John Fort
Taxpayers' Association

Ms. Berit Reistad
Senior Citizen Group

Mr. Bob Spiegel
Vice Chair,
College Support Organization

Mr. Juan Gonzalez
Student

College of the Desert Program Management Team

Dr. Edwin Deas
Vice President,
Business Affairs

Mr. Steve Renew
Director, Facilities Services

Mr. Wade Ellis
Director, Fiscal Services

Mr. Mac McGinnis
Program Manager,
Education Information Systems
Professionals

SIXTH YEAR REPORT: MEASURE B PROJECTS COMPLETED OR IN PROCESS

During the sixth year of the Measure B program, completion of several building projects was accomplished and planning for others commenced.

On the Palm Desert Campus, most notably, the Donald and Peggy Cravens Student Services Center (CSSC) was completed and opened at the end of the Spring Semester of 2010. This two story building houses all services provided to students in a 'one stop shopping' location. Students can register for classes and find resources such as counseling, financial aid, DSPS, Veteran's Affairs and other services needed by our students. A large new bookstore is included in the building.



Immediately adjacent to the CSSC, the original Dining Hall was renovated and now houses new food services in a modern setting and delivery, as well as student activities offices and spaces. A game room, student government offices, computer access and lounge space fill out this building. In keeping with the new purpose of the building it has been renamed "BEEPS", a name selected from a list of suggestions from student and community members responding to a "Name the New Dining Facility" contest.

The renovated Business Building was completed and occupied in the Spring Semester. This building houses computer labs and digital design classes.



A small building with offices and meeting rooms was completed on the north side of the campus, facing Magnesia Falls. This building is leased to the College Alumni Association, who manages the very successful College of the Desert Street Fair.



The renovation of the original Nursing Building neared completion, with occupancy expected in Fall of 2010. This building has been renovated and modernized throughout and has classrooms and labs that serve the entire campus. This completes the Barker Nursing Complex.



SIXTH YEAR REPORT: MEASURE B PROJECTS COMPLETED OR IN PROCESS

The three-year long project to install all new utilities to serve the campus over the next decades was completed in late Spring. This project replaces existing systems and installs new services. Nine systems have been installed: domestic water, electricity, fiber optics for data, heating water, cooling water, gas, sewer, stormwater collection and retention, and a reclaimed water system. The work in this last year brought those systems into the center of campus.

Two small buildings to support Athletics and PE were completed this year. One of these houses a weight and exercise room to support Athletic and PE programs. The other is a Trainer's Room with facilities for therapy and first aid for Athletic and PE programs.



On the east side of the campus, groundbreaking for a new two story Classroom Building was held in late Spring. This building will have classrooms, large lecture rooms, Science labs, the District's MESA program, offices for faculty and staff, and the offices and campus servers of Information Technology and Institutional Research. Completion is anticipated in late 2011 or early 2012.

Planning and Design progressed in this year on a two story Communications Classroom Building just across a courtyard from the CSSC. This building will be the new home of all classes related to language studies.

In response to the changes at the Monterey entrance, design of a complete renovation and updating of the Monterey Entrance has begun. This project will complete the vision of opening arms out to the community with the two new buildings supported by courtyards, outdoor assembly areas and an updated "front door".

Elsewhere, the District has commenced planning for campuses at two additional sites in the valley; one in Palm Springs, known as the West Valley Campus, and one in Indio, near the Indio Civic Center. The West Valley Campus will be designed to be very highly sustainable and provide programs that train students for technology jobs in renewable energy fields and other needs identified by the community. Occupancy is anticipated in 2014.

The Indio Center will house classrooms, labs, faculty and staff offices, multiuse rooms and other community services. It's anticipated this three story campus will be completed in 2013.

Preparations were being made at the close of the sixth year to announce requests for services of architects to begin planning and design of several more building projects on the Palm Desert Campus, with that planning expected to begin in the 2010-2011 year.



BUILDING A SELF-SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS IN THE WEST VALLEY

College of the Desert and the City of Palm Springs are embarking on a unique initiative to establish a self-sustainable satellite campus on the northwest corner of Indian Canyon Drive and Tramview Road to serve the cities of Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs and beyond.



The 119-acre site to house the campus will encompass three components:

1. College of the Desert program buildings integrated with the recreational resources of the existing James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center;
2. Commercially-operated facilities for training, research & development, business incubation of 'clean technologies' and a potential location for a Coachella Valley iHub; and
3. *GreenPark*, a 60-to 70-acre site that will feature sustainable energy-generating systems, and facilities for research & development and teaching & learning.

To serve the needs of the West Valley, COD has tentatively identified four program 'pillars' for

the new campus that each present significant opportunities for partnerships with business, industry, and other educational institutions: (1) Hospitality & Tourism; (2) Media & the Arts; (3) Allied Health; and (4) Sustainability Technology. COD's Educational Master Plan will determine the mix of programs to be offered gradually at the West Valley Campus.

Going Green big time

'Integrated sustainability' will feature prominently in design, construction and operation of the West Valley Campus to address issues such as waste management, water conservation, energy efficiency and reduction, and renewable energy generation. The result will be a holistic operating campus that is compatible with desert ecology and features a teaching and learning environment that is environmentally and socially responsible, and economically viable.



College of the Desert is poised to educate future 'green collar' workers and become a catalyst and economic development driver for the region's plans. The proposed West Valley Campus will allow COD to show leadership in meeting or exceeding federal, state, county and municipal sustainability policies.

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE AUDITS

In compliance with Proposition 39, the Board of Trustees engaged the independent audit firm of Lund & Guttry LLP, a local valley firm, to complete independent audits of the financial records and the construction records of the bond program.

The first issuance for bond sales was for \$65 million in August 2004 and refunded in June 2005 bringing the total to \$73 million. In November 2007, the District issued General Obligation Bonds, Series 2007B in the amount of \$57,850,000. In December 2007, the District issued the final approved principal amount of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2007C in the amount of \$223,648,444. The District's bond insured rating from Moody and

S&P continued as AAA.

The audit firm reported that the College of the Desert "...has properly accounted for the expenditures of the funds held in the Bond Fund and that such expenditures were made on authorized bond projects. Further it was noted that the funds held in the Bond Fund and expended by the District were not expended for salaries of school administrators or other operating expenditures."

The audit had no adverse findings and no questionable costs were noted.

A copy of the full financial and performance audits can be viewed on the College of the Desert Bond web page at www.bond.collegeofthedesert.edu.

AUDITED BOND PROJECTS EXPENDITURES AND PROGRESS REPORT AT JUNE 30, 2010

Total budget does not include other funding sources.

For more details on expenditures go to our website at www.bond.collegeofthedesert.edu

	Actual Costs for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2010	Actual Costs August 1, 2004 through June 30, 2010	Total Budget
JOB AND CAREER TRAINING PROJECTS			
Barker Nursing Complex	\$ 0	\$ 10,880,983	\$ 10,962,344
Burn Tower	10,426	2,871,080	2,800,000
Nursing Building Renovation	2,433,693	2,700,421	6,065,017
Public Safety Academy Phase I	146,306	15,129,360	15,978,064
Subtotal	\$ 2,590,425	\$ 31,581,844	\$ 35,805,425
CLASSROOM BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES			
Alumni Centre	\$ 1,104,455	\$ 2,616,147	\$ 2,890,946
Aquatics Swimming Pool Demolition	0	290,087	290,087
Baseball Scoreboard	0	77,711	77,711
Business Building Renovation	1,670,747	4,555,865	4,465,621
Classroom Building	1,349,121	3,077,385	28,810,672
Communications Building	525,409	755,644	25,133,142
Cravens Student Center	13,908,303	22,896,855	22,402,817
Culinary Kitchen	0	410,529	410,529
Central Annex/Cooling Towers	26,014	26,014	1,500,000
Dining Hall Renovation	4,349,766	5,273,269	5,687,469
East Valley Phase I	134,292	9,736,225	10,000,000
Indio Educational Center	428,231	428,231	0
Golf Academy lighting	9,607	9,607	0
Practice Field lighting	22,521	22,521	200,000
Scene Shop	0	74,676	74,676
Science Labs	0	223,624	223,624
Soccer Field Lighting	0	57,449	57,449
Softball Stadium	0	65,202	65,202
South Annex Phase I	0	273,569	273,569
South Annex Phase II	0	1,027,825	1,027,825
South Annex Phase III	875	633,705	648,982
South/North Annex Phase I	0	1,920,155	1,920,155
Temporary Dining Facilities	22,568	742,297	969,985
Voice Over I.P. Communication	0	964,487	964,487
Weight Room and Training Facility	322,998	1,041,317	1,330,381
West Valley Phase I	554,177	1,102,325	40,000,000
Wireless Access	0	322,555	322,555
Subtotal	\$ 24,429,084	\$ 58,625,276	\$ 149,747,884
HEALTH AND SAFETY PROJECTS			
Subtotal	\$ 7,542,269	\$ 30,055,214	\$ 39,220,610
ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS			
Central Plant	\$ 34,483	\$ 12,882,114	\$ 13,156,448
Subtotal	\$ 34,483	\$ 12,882,114	\$ 13,156,448
SAFETY, SECURITY AND SITES			
Subtotal	\$ 925,157	\$ 10,290,519	\$ 10,340,862
OTHER			
Planning & Program Management	\$ 2,613,424	\$ 11,802,746	\$ 20,848,778
Contingency	0	0	26,034
Future Projects	0	0	110,081,213
Subtotal	\$ 2,613,424	\$ 11,802,746	\$ 130,956,025
Total	\$ 38,134,842	\$ 155,237,713	\$ 379,227,254

STAY IN TOUCH

The Citizens' Oversight Committee meets quarterly to review Measure B projects and progress. All meetings are open to the public and are held at 3 p.m. on the Palm Desert Campus at 43-500 Monterey Ave., Palm Desert, CA, 92260.

For more information on Measure B, the Facilities Master Plan, Citizens Oversight Committee agendas and meeting minutes, go to the COD Bond Website at www.bond.collegeofthedesert.edu or call the College at (760) 773-2511.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

March 31, 2011 3:00 p.m.,
Cravens Student Services Center, Multipurpose Room
June 30, 2011 3:00 p.m.,
City of Palm Desert Public Safety Academy, Conference Room
September 15, 2011 3:00 p.m.,
City of Palm Desert Public Safety Academy, Conference Room

DESERT COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Becky Broughton • Chuck Hayden
John Marman
Michael O'Neill • Bonnie Stefan

Jerry R. Patton
College President



43-500 Monterey Ave., Palm Desert, CA 92260