

# COLLEGE OF THE DESERT CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE 2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT

For Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012



## LETTER FROM THE MEASURE B CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CHAIR

Dear Coachella Valley Residents,

The Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee is pleased to present its eighth 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, as approved by the College of the Desert's Trustees, to ascertain that they are spent as specified in the ballot measure.

Measure B was 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 Coachella Valley residents.

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. We essentially perform a due diligence function. We question representatives of the College who work on the various projects, as well as the auditors engaged to assure that funds are spent in accordance with Measure B. As a committee, we have been impressed with the College's organization, planning, attention to detail, and the diligence of its staff.

The Palm Desert Campus, construction of the Classroom Building now known as the Math Science Technology Center was nearing completion at our fiscal year end. Construction began on the Communication building slated to house all classes related to language studies. These buildings will provide facilities for classes currently held in modular buildings located across the campus. To ease traffic flow construction at the Monterey Entrance for a new gateway to the campus began over the summer. Planning commenced for other classroom buildings specified in the Bond Measure, which will replace insufficient or inefficient buildings, such as deteriorating metal buildings with new permanent classrooms and labs.

In Indio, construction plans were submitted to the Division of State Architect for review and approval. A three story building housing classrooms, offices and multiuse rooms will be constructed at the former site of the Greyhound Bus Station. This building will house the programs that are currently conducted in leased space in the County Building. The East Valley Campus-Mecca/Thermal continues to be successful drawing students from the east end of the valley.

And in Palm Springs, programming continues for the first phase of buildings and site improvements. Master planning commenced for this site envisioned as a 'green' or sustainable designed and operated campus. It will also provide opportunities for commercially operated research and development, training and incubation of clean technology businesses.

These voter approved projects address the College's most critical facility needs, including safety issues, energy savings, technology, and training programs in response to community needs. These changes will enable the College of the Desert to continue to provide an opportunity for a first-class education to youths 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](http://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,  
Lawrence M. Cohen, *Committee Chair*

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## 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 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.

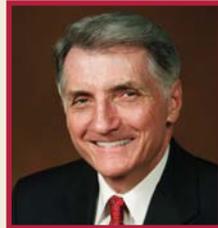
## AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE OF THE CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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 B and approved by the voters.

## INCOMING BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2012-2013



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. Lawrence M. Cohen, Chair, Business Representative, Senior Managing Director and Shareholder, Mesirow Financial; Mr. Kenneth Eklund, Senior Citizen Group Representative, CEO of Safe-T-Proof of Riverside County, Inc., Mr. Chris Escobedo, Taxpayers' Association Representative, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Indio; Mr. Geoffrey S. Kiehl, Vice Chair, East Valley Representative, Director of Finance & Treasurer, City of Palm Springs; Mr. Larry Spicer, College Support Organization Representative, Retired, Real Estate Industry; Mr. William H. Waldron, West Valley Representative, Retired, 3M Company; and Ms. Brenda Valdez, Student Representative.



## 2011-12 CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Mr. Robert A. Spiegel**  
*Chair,*  
*College Support Organization*

**Mr. Lawrence M. Cohen**  
*Vice Chair, Business*

**Mr. Geoffrey S. Kiehl**  
*East Valley*

**Mr. William H. Waldron**  
*West Valley*

**Mr. Chris Escobedo**  
**Mr. Robert Flint**  
*Taxpayers' Association*

**Mr. Kenneth Eklund**  
**Ms. Berit Reistad**  
*Senior Citizen Group*

**Ms. Cheri Nadell**  
*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*

## EIGHTH YEAR REPORT: MEASURE B PROJECTS COMPLETED OR IN PROCESS

Since the passage of Measure B in 2004 the District has followed a building program that responds to its Education Master Plan, facilities condition assessment; the need for replacement of insufficient or inefficient facilities; seismic, safety and other building code issues, and long overdue infrastructure and technology upgrades. This process continues to be followed with updated data for educational needs and continuously updated building codes. The District takes seriously its responsibility to be good stewards of the Bond proceeds to ensure the demands of the Bond language and the expectations of the citizens of the Coachella Valley are met while completing right sized, well planned projects that will serve the District and the community far into the future. Planning began on several new projects on the Palm Desert campus as well as the new facilities planned for east and west valley sites.



During the eighth year of the Measure B program, on the east side of the campus, construction of the Math Science Technology Center, was nearing completion. The building will house several programs and classes that are currently in several locations around the campus including temporary facilities. The new classrooms, large lecture rooms, science labs, the District's MESA program, and offices for faculty and staff, will support students and faculty in these disciplines. The offices and campus servers of Information Technology and Institutional Research are also housed in the Classroom Building. Completion is anticipated during the Summer 2012.



Construction began on the Communication Building. This building, located across the courtyard from the Cravens Student Services Center (CSSC) will be the new home of all classes related to language studies. When completed the two-story, steel framed footprint will be 39,880 sq. ft. The facility will be completed during the spring 2013.



The Monterey Entrance was closed in May to create a new gateway to the campus. Construction began on a new roundabout that will make it easier for students, faculty and staff to navigate their way around campus. This project will remediate traffic congestion at the Monterey entrance. The space between the new Communication and Cravens Student Services Center buildings will include seating areas where students can study and rest with access to electricity for their electronic devices.



All programs housed in the existing physical education building were relocated to other facilities. Architects were selected and plans were submitted to the Division of State Architect for review and approval. The renovation will resolve the seismic, safety and other code issues in the nearly 50-year-old building. The renovated building will house a new weight room, two multi-purpose rooms, and faculty offices. The new gymnasium will include team rooms and locker rooms.



Plans for a Visual Arts building began and have been approved by the Division of State Architect. During the fall 2012 semester construction will begin on the new Visual Arts building. The new structure will be

## EIGHTH YEAR REPORT: MEASURE B PROJECTS COMPLETED OR IN PROCESS

located on the northwest end of campus near the existing Music building. The space will provide a new lab, and classrooms for programs including: 2D drawing and painting, 3D sculpture, printmaking, photography (both print and digital) and ceramics. The construction on the 13,700 sq. ft. building will bring the arts programs which have been held in deteriorating metal warehouse type space for years closer to the campus.

Plan designs began that will renovate the buildings in the center of the campus for the offices of administrative services are housed in several areas, some of which in temporary modular buildings. This will bring all of the administrative services together in a more efficient and interrelating space. Construction start is anticipated in late 2012 or early 2013.



The design process began on the new Stagecraft Shop located next door to the Theatre building. The 3,345 sq. ft. shop will take about a year to construct. Construction is expected to begin winter 2012. Currently faculty and students use a small outdoor area to learn about stage design and build sets for upcoming performances.



The design phase of the new Career Technical Education programs continues. These classes are currently held in deteriorating metal buildings and buildings with seismic, safety and other code concerns. A renovated existing building and outdoor labs, along with a new building with classrooms, labs and offices, will provide for a consolidated facility for all of these programs. Construction is expected to begin during the spring 2013 semester.



Planning began for the Early Childhood Development facility and plans prepared to be submitted to the Division of State Architects. Construction is expected to commence in spring 2013 which addresses code and other compliance issues. This facility will be located immediately adjacent to the existing building on campus and enables the Center to offer more teaching and learning opportunities for COD students with classrooms, observation rooms, offices and a kitchen.



Plans for a new structure in Indio, at the former site of the Greyhound Bus Station, for a three story building were submitted to the Division of State Architect for review and approval. The 40,000 sq. ft. structure will house classrooms, labs, offices and support space. Construction is expected to commence in fall of 2012. These classrooms replace those currently held in leased space in the County Building and at other locations in the east valley.



Programming for the first phase of buildings and site improvements continues on the West Valley Campus in Palm Springs. The project is envisioned as a 'green' or sustainable designed and operated campus which will also provide opportunities for shared lands and facilities, and a sustainable energy park (GreenPark) component. The 119-acre site will encompass three components: COD program buildings integrated with the recreational resources of the existing James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center; commercially-operated facilities for training, research and development, business incubation of 'clean technologies' and a location for a Coachella Valley iHub; and GreenPark, a 60-to-70-acre site that will feature sustainable energy-generating systems, and facilities for research & development and teaching & learning. COD has tentatively identified four educational 'pillars' that each represent significant opportunities for partnerships with business, industry, and other educational institutions: Hospitality & Tourism, Media & the Arts, Allied Health and Sustainability Technology. Phase 1 of the West Valley Campus in Palm Springs includes three buildings and a central plant. Two of the buildings will house classrooms, meeting rooms, a library and offices. COD's Desert Energy Enterprise Center (DEEC) classroom/lab will be in the third building. Construction is expected to begin summer 2013.

## ADDENDUM

The District conducted a review in the Fall of 2011 to reaffirm the efficacy of continuing the bond program to completion at a time when it faces operating budget challenges due to reductions in state funding. It was concluded that it was essentially impractical to contemplate suspension of the bond program and in fact there are at least ten good reasons for pursuing it to completion:

1. It enables COD to develop new campus sites and facilities to serve the entire Coachella Valley during the second 50 years of the College's existence.
2. It addresses contemporary health and safety, disability access, and building code compliance requirements.
3. It gives students and faculty access to the highest quality teaching and learning environments which is critical to our mission.
4. It enables renovation of substandard and no-longer-fit-for-purpose facilities and permits systematic replacement of all

modular buildings.

5. It facilitates the replacement of aging and inefficient services infrastructure.
6. It takes COD closer to contemporary technology standards.
7. It positions COD long-term to meet the demands of a growing and diversifying Valley population once the short-term state funding crisis is overcome.
8. It provides the opportunity for COD to practically demonstrate leadership in sustainability stewardship in all its new buildings and campuses.
9. It must be aggressively pursued to completion because the bond funds must be expended in a defined timeframe for the purposes identified in the bond election and we are currently enjoying the most favorable construction market in years.
10. It represents a significant economic development driver for the Valley in its own right currently and in the longer term through the facilities created.

## SUSTAINABILITY STEWARDSHIP, WALKING THE GREEN TALK AT COLLEGE OF THE DESERT

This year the College was awarded its first LEED Gold certification for the Cravens Student Services Center. Representatives from the architect's office and from the local chapter of the US Green Building Council presented the award at a meeting of the District's Green Council.

The Nursing Building Renovation, completed last year, was submitted for certification with enough points to apply for a Gold rating. As of June, 2012 the determination was not yet made about what rating this project will receive.

More buildings, the nearly completed MSTC and the Communication Building, now in construction, have been submitted to the USGBC for certification.

The District's Policy of Sustainability Stewardship, its Green Council Annual Reports, and other Sustainability Performance Targets and Guidelines can be found on the District's website, at <http://www.collegeofthedesert.edu/community/ss/Pages/default.aspx>. These, as well as other Bond planning and design documents are available on the Bond website [www.bond.collegeofthedesert.edu](http://www.bond.collegeofthedesert.edu).

Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), the LEED® Green Building Rating System™ is a framework for identifying,

implementing and measuring green building and neighborhood design, construction, operations and maintenance. LEED is voluntary and designed for new and existing commercial, institutional, and residential building, including neighborhood development. Several categories are used in the LEED Green Building Rating System such as sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, awareness and education, location and linkages, neighborhood pattern and design, green infrastructure and building, innovation in design /operations, and regional priority. The LEED rating system is based on a 100 point scale with an extra 10 bonus points available for innovation in design, exemplary performance, or achievement of credits identified as having regional importance on a project's location. LEED certification is awarded based on this scale: 40-49 points Certified; 50-59 points Silver; 60-79 points Gold; and 80+ points Platinum. There are four standard principal types of LEED requirements: prerequisites, core credits, innovation credits and regional priority credits. For more information about LEED® Certification and guidelines visit the U.S. Green Building Council website at [www.usgbc.org/](http://www.usgbc.org/).

## INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE AUDITS

In compliance with Proposition 39, the Board of Trustees engaged the independent audit firm of Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP, 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](http://www.bond.collegeofthedesert.edu).

# UPDATED BOND PROJECTS EXPENDITURES AND PROGRESS REPORT AT JUNE 30, 2012

Audited results as reported to the Citizens' Oversight Committee by District Staff. Total budget does not include other funding sources. For more details on expenditures go to [www.bond.collegeofthedesert.edu](http://www.bond.collegeofthedesert.edu).

	Actual Costs for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012	Actual Costs August 1, 2004 through June 30, 2012	Total Budget
<b>JOB AND CAREER TRAINING PROJECTS</b>			
Applied Sciences	\$ 711,645	\$ 1,248,651	\$ 12,000,000
Barker Nursing Complex	0	10,962,344	10,962,344
Burn Tower	0	2,875,267	2,875,267
Child Development Center	246,376	293,787	5,500,000
Nursing Building Renovation	11,406	3,548,347	3,537,467
Public Safety Academy Phase I	0	14,911,665	14,911,665
Subtotal	\$ 969,427	\$ 33,840,061	\$ 49,786,743
<b>CLASSROOM BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES</b>			
Alumni Centre	\$ 0	\$ 2,714,816	\$ 2,714,816
Athletic facilities	1,164,843	3,022,109	21,410,000
Aquatics Swimming Pool Demolition	0	290,087	290,087
Business Building Renovation	0	4,598,036	4,598,036
Central Campus renovation	169,365	390,879	37,750,000
Communications Building	8,574,646	9,977,839	25,100,000
Cravens Student Center	61,273	22,914,219	22,973,516
Culinary Kitchen	0	410,529	410,529
Dining Hall Renovation	1,468	5,399,909	5,399,969
East Valley Phase I	1,232	9,788,602	10,000,000
Imaging	15,000	15,000	400,000
Indio Educational Center	1,044,255	2,150,900	20,000,000
Math Science Technology	10,747,402	20,660,602	23,800,000
Relocations Project	22,999	22,999	1,500,000
Scene Shop	0	74,676	74,676
Science Labs	0	223,624	223,624
Soil contingency	0	0	1,825,000
South Annex	0	3,867,843	3,867,843
Stagecraft Shop	0	0	1,900,000
Temporary dining facilities	0	752,840	752,840
Visual Arts Building	409,538	638,638	8,175,000
Voice over I.P. communication	0	964,487	964,487
West Valley Desert Hot Springs	0	1,140	1,140
West Valley Phase I	1,505,665	3,548,762	40,000,000
Wireless Access	0	322,555	322,555
Subtotal	\$ 23,717,686	\$ 92,751,091	\$ 234,454,118
<b>HEALTH AND SAFETY PROJECTS</b>			
Subtotal	\$ 3,010,880	\$ 36,767,650	\$ 41,535,091
<b>ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS</b>			
Subtotal	\$ 2,786,041	\$ 15,893,807	\$ 16,552,261
<b>SAFETY, SECURITY AND SITES</b>			
Site Improvements	\$ 0	\$ 2,663,420	\$ 2,663,420
Central Annex	0	2,308,330	2,308,330
Monterey Avenue Improvements	674,796	2,375,316	6,544,946
Security cameras and emergency phones	0	0	1,000,000
South parking lot	0	1,004,767	1,004,767
Western parking lot	0	2,564,965	2,564,965
Subtotal	\$ 674,796	\$ 10,916,798	\$ 16,086,428
<b>OTHER</b>			
Planning & Program Management	3,242,818	18,578,623	27,371,234
Subtotal	\$ 3,242,818	\$ 18,578,623	\$ 27,371,234
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 34,401,648</b>	<b>\$ 208,748,030</b>	<b>\$ 385,785,875</b>

## 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 3:30 p.m. in the Cravens Student Services Center, Multi-Purpose Room 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](http://www.bond.collegeofthedesert.edu) or call the College at (760) 773-2511.

### UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

March 12, 2013, 3:30 p.m.

June 11, 2013, 3:30 p.m.

September 10, 2013, 3:30 p.m.

Cravens Student Services Center  
Multi-Purpose Room

2011-2012

### DESERT COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Becky Broughton • Chuck Hayden • John Marman

Michael O'Neill • Bonnie Stefan

Aaron Bonner, *Student Trustee*

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Jerry R. Patton  
*College President*



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