



NEWS Release

NO. 03-01

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
COLUMBIA COLLEGE • MODESTO JUNIOR COLLEGE

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YCCD Firing Range Lawsuit Rejected

January 15, 2003

MODESTO, CA – The Yosemite Community College District Board of Trustees was exonerated last Thursday when a lawsuit claiming that the District violated environmental regulations by voting to close their gun firing range was rejected.

At their October 2001 meeting, the YCCD Board voted to close the range located at Modesto Junior College's West Campus for health and safety reasons, specifically for lead contamination and escaping shrapnel. They also decided to clean up the lead contamination, at a cost of over \$240,000, and transfer the range activities to a more appropriate site.

The lawsuit, filed in the Stanislaus County Superior Court one month later by retired instructor Don Clark and the Association for a Cleaner Environment (ACE) was brought under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The court ruling issued on January 9 rejected claims of violating CEQA as being without merit. The judgment for YCCD will result in costs associated with the lawsuit being paid by Mr. Clark and ACE.

After deciding that the growing MJC west campus was not an appropriate site any longer for a firing range, the YCCD Board temporarily transferred the location of firing range classes to the City of Turlock Police Department range, until the City of Modesto's brand new state-of-the-art facility was completed and operational in 2002.

There are no immediate plans for the MJC West Campus firing range site at this time.

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