



## YCCD Places College Job Training and Facility Repair Measure on the Ballot

August 16, 2004

MODESTO, CA - Trustees of the Yosemite Community College District (YCCD) voted unanimously to place a job training and facilities repair bond measure on the November 2nd ballot before an overflow crowd of supporters at the Board of Trustees monthly meeting. Modesto Junior College and Columbia College are both parts of the YCCD.

The \$326 million bond measure will need 55% support from voters in the November election to pass. The measure will impact property taxes by \$19.70 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. Money from the bond measure cannot be used for salaries.

Trustee Paul Neumann stated that the bond measure is the “single most important thing that’s happened in the district in the last 40 years.” The district has never before sought funding through a bond measure.

The bond is intended to implement prioritized projects identified in the district’s Facilities Master Plan, a study which took over 18-months to develop by collecting information from community members, faculty, students and staff. The plan supports MJC’s and Columbia College’s major goals of expanding career and job training programs, and preparing students for transfers to four-year universities. Projects include adding more classrooms, science labs and technology centers to keep up with increased student demand.

As approved by the YCCD Board of Trustees, the bond resolution contains a detailed projects list, outlining specifically how the bond measure may be used. By law, a citizens’ oversight committee must also conduct annual audits to ensure that bond proceeds are used properly and for its intended purposes.

With a standing room audience in the YCCD board room and an equally large crowd in an adjoining overflow room, over 30 bond measure supporters took the opportunity to speak for nearly two hours

during the open forum portion. Among them, MJC student Lori Dangerfield who said, "The bond is good for students, good for staff, and good for the community." Former Sonora mayor, Liz Bass, in describing the important role that Columbia College plays in the community said, "The college represents hope and helps people in getting their lives back on track." The Modesto Chamber of Commerce expressed its support of the bond through its CEO, Gary Plummer, who said, "It's an honor for me to say that our board endorsed the issue to demonstrate how important MJC is to the business community. You have the full support of our 1,500 members."

Alumni of MJC and Columbia College and other interested community members seeking additional bond information are invited to contact YCCD at (209) 575-6987.

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