



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Yosemite Community College District Saves Taxpayers \$8 Million

MODESTO, CA – The Yosemite Community College District is proud to announce its most recent initiative to benefit its students and community members. This initiative will deliver bond interest rate savings to local taxpayers from the refinancing of a portion of the District's Election of 2004 (Measure E) Bonds.

Under the leadership of the District Board, the District Administration chose to take advantage of low interest rates to refinance bonds from its Measure E authorization without extending the term of those bonds. The District was able to reduce the interest rates on the prior bonds from an average of 4.9% to 2.4%, reducing the community's tax bill by a total of \$8,010,720 over the life of the bond refinancing. According to Board Chair Darin Gharat, "This is great news for the taxpayers of the Yosemite Community College District, especially during these challenging times; thanks to the hard work and determination of our Chancellor and District Administrative Team."

The District's ability to obtain these low interest rates and achieve these high savings levels was boosted by its credit ratings of "Aa2" assigned by Moody's Investors Service, which reflect the District's 1) "large tax base that will continue to expand," 2) "consistent financial performance supported by healthy reserves," 3) "strong management." This high rating allowed the District to attract a broad base of investors which included governmental agencies, insurance companies, money managers, and bond funds.

While the District will not receive any part of the savings, the District Board and District Administration pursued this opportunity strictly on behalf of local taxpayers as part of their continued support for YCCD students. This was the fourth time that the District took initiative to deliver savings to its community. The combined savings from all of the Measure E bond refinancings now totals over \$27.3 million, which will be realized by District taxpayers in the form of lower property tax bills. District Chancellor, Dr. Henry Yong, stated that, "YCCD is grateful and appreciative to the community for supporting Measure E in 2004. Whenever there is an opportunity to save the community taxpayers money, the District has an obligation to do due diligence, to realize savings for the taxpayers. I am delighted that we are able to do so today."

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