

*2005-2006
Annual Report*

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

What is Measure H?	2
What is Measure J?	2
What is the COC?	2
Bond Expenditure Summary	3-5
Projects Update	6-8
Measures H & J - the first three years	9
Audits	9
Planning	10,11
Stay in Touch	12



**A MESSAGE FROM THE MEASURE H & J
CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE CHAIR**



To Our Community:

Welcome to the third edition of the Merced Community College District Measure H & J Citizens' Oversight Committee's Annual Report. As your representatives, it is our committee's duty and privilege to oversee the expenditure of funds approved by voters to upgrade and expand the facilities at Merced Community College and the Los Banos Campus.

This committee represents a cross section of the Merced Community College District community, which includes communities in the Merced, Fresno, and Madera counties. Over the last year, it has been our pleasure to work with the students, faculty, staff and administration of the Merced Community College District. As the chair of this committee, I can assure you that the people in this district are working diligently to ensure that every Measure H and J dollar is spent efficiently on those projects that are most vital to the mission of the district—providing quality, affordable, accessible educational opportunities to all members of the community.

It is exciting to be a part of the changes that will ensure our local college continues to be a valuable resource to our residents and businesses. As you will find in this report, several projects are already underway to repair aging facilities and infrastructure, increase efficiency, and provide students and faculty with the latest technological tools to enhance the learning experience.

Our committee meets twice a year. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Meeting dates and locations are published on our website. You are also welcome to contact us with your comments and/or questions.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*Chris Tafoya
Committee Chair*

What is Measure H?

In November 2002, voters in the Merced Area approved Measure H—a \$53.5 million general obligation bond measure to fund facilities improvements at the District's Merced Campus.

What is Measure J?

In November 2002, voters in the Los Banos area approved Measure J—a \$11.93 million general bond measure to fund new facilities at the new Los Banos Campus.

What is the Citizens' Oversight Committee?

Measures H and J were 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 Merced Community College District Board of Trustees appointed an independent committee of citizens to oversee the expenditure of all bond funds. The Citizens' Oversight Committee includes representatives from taxpayer groups, business and industry, senior citizens' organizations, and students. The Committee is charged with ensuring that all bond funds are spent as promised on capital projects.

Since the passage of Measures H and J, the Committee has met several times for the purpose of reviewing the District's bond-funded construction program; ensuring the program maximizes all funding sources; and making sure the District has made the most prudent use of taxpayer dollars. In addition, the Committee is charged with assuring the District adheres to the requirements of Proposition 39, including spending funds only on those projects identified in Measures H and J as approved by the voters.

2005-06 Citizens Oversight Committee Members

Chris Tafoya
Chairperson
Member of Business Community

Maggie Randolph
Co-Chairperson
Member of College Support Organization

Michelle W. Allison
Citizen

Mary Villalta Brooks
Citizen

Robert Edminster
Member of College Support Organization

Keith Groninga
Member of Business Community

Gerald K. Hoyt
Member of Senior Citizen's Organization

Barbara Ward
Member of Business Community

Andrea Garibay
Merced Campus Student Representative

Joey Solis
Los Banos Campus Student Representative

Merced Community College District Programming Team

Larry M. Johnson, Ph.D.
Vice President, District Administrative Services

Sheila Flores
Facilities Planning and Development Specialist

Marvin W. Smith
Director, Business Services

Joseph Allison
Director, Fiscal Services

Rochelle Manansala
Account Technician I

Dave Younger, Principle Architect
Lionakis Beaumont Design Group Inc.

Measure H (Merced) Featured Projects



COMPLETED

Science Lab Portables Project

This project consisted of the installation of four science labs, one fume hood facility, one preparation area and one restroom facility. This project accommodates our Science Program during the Science Building Remodel.

The science labs were constructed with the most modern laboratory instructional equipment.



North Loop Road/Parking Lot J

Construction of the North Loop Road and Parking Lot J were completed in fall of 2005.

The North Loop Road connects G Street with Le High Street. The parking lot is adjacent to the Science Lab Portables and can accommodate up to 150 vehicles.

Siemens Energy Retrofit

This project is completed and provides the campus with updated, energy efficient lighting and utility systems.

Benefits of this project include enhanced lighting, isolated HVAC systems and a co-generation system at the pool. This project was funded through energy savings and bond funds.

Learning Resources Center (LRC) Project

The new Learning Resources Center (Library) was completed in January and opened to the students February 20, 2007. The facility is the largest building on campus with more than 74,500 square feet of space. The LRC was funded through state and local education bonds at a cost of \$18.8 million.



Measure H (Merced) Featured Projects



NEARING COMPLETION

Science Building Remodel Project

On June 8, 2006, the District received a bid in the amount of \$12,463,000 for re-construction of this building. This project will provide teaching and learning spaces to accommodate increased enrollment in the sciences and math on the main campus in Merced. With expanding pressure for additional lower division courses at the community college level and the onset of an organic chemistry and bio tech program, enrollment has increased significantly in the physical sciences. This Science Building Remodel Project is funded through state and local education bonds.



IN PROGRESS

Business Resource Center Project

This project includes construction of a new building for employment training and economic development programs to include classrooms, computer laboratories, conference rooms and community meeting spaces for college/business collaboration, and faculty/staff space. This building will be located off campus, on the corner of 19th and M Streets, across from Merced City Hall. A Groundbreaking was held January 17, 2007.



Lesher Building Remodel Project

This project reactivates 21,660 square feet of remodeled space, formally known as the Lesher Library, to address the need for the development of centralized student services on the Merced Campus (i.e. Admissions, Records, Registration, Counseling, Financial Aid, EOPS and DSPS.) This project began in March 2007.



Measure J (Los Banos) Featured Projects



NEARING COMPLETION

Los Banos Site Development/ Permanent Educational Facilities

On-site development of facilities will extend the infrastructure onto the permanent site. This project delivers the first building for the new campus, which will consist of three teaching labs, six general purpose classrooms, offices and a small library. The total square feet for this project is 13,023.

Academic and Vocational Technology Project

This project provides the new campus with its second facility. The new academic building will focus on technology (i.e. science labs, computer labs, classrooms, lecture space and meeting and faculty space). This project is funded with bond funds.



The new Los Banos Campus

The new campus will be housed on 125 acres to the west of Los Banos along Highway 152. A Grand Opening will be held in late spring of 2007.



Measures H and J: The First Three Years

Since voters approved Measures H and J in November 2002, the Merced Community College District has made significant progress in its Capital Facilities Program. Since Fall of 2004, four projects were completed, four projects are under construction, one project has been submitted to the State Division of Architect's Office (DSA) and is awaiting approval, one project is in the Preliminary Plans and Working Drawings Phase and one project has been submitted to the Chancellor's Office for funding consideration.

Updates to the facilities master plan will soon be underway. Through the end of June 2006, the District had spent \$20,788,992.

A District Programming Team continues to monitor projects district-wide. The Programming Team is comprised of staff from the District.

Finally, like all educational institutions engaged in capital construction, the District has encountered an alarming rise in the cost of construction materials and services. In the last two years, building costs have increased by 30 percent, and the cost of building materials has increased 20 percent.

Financial and Performance Audits

Measures H and J contain strict financial safeguards, including a requirement that independent financial and performance audits be conducted annually to ensure that bond funds are spent only on classroom and facility improvements as identified in the ballot language.

Measure H was passed in November 2002. In June of 2003, the first phase of general obligation bonds was sold for a total of \$20 million. In June of 2004, the second phase of general obligation bonds was sold for a total of \$24 million. In June of 2006, the third phase of general obligation bonds was sold for a total of \$24 million.

Measure J was passed in November 2002. In May of 2003, the first phase of general obligation bonds was sold for a total of \$5,140,000. The second and last phase of general obligation bonds was sold in August of 2005 for a total of \$6,790,000.

The audit firm, Matsom and Isom, conducted audits of the bond expenditures and activities for the period July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006. The firm reported "Based on the procedures performed, we found that for the items tested, the Merced Community College District has properly accounted for the expenditure of Proposition 39 and Measures H and J General Obligation Bonds. Further, it was noted that the funds were not used for salaries of school administrators or other operating expenditures. In our opinion, the Merced Community College District complied, in all material respects, with the aforementioned requirements for the year ended June 30, 2006." Matsom and Isom

A copy of the full financial and performance audits may be viewed on the Merced Community College District web site at www.mccd.edu.

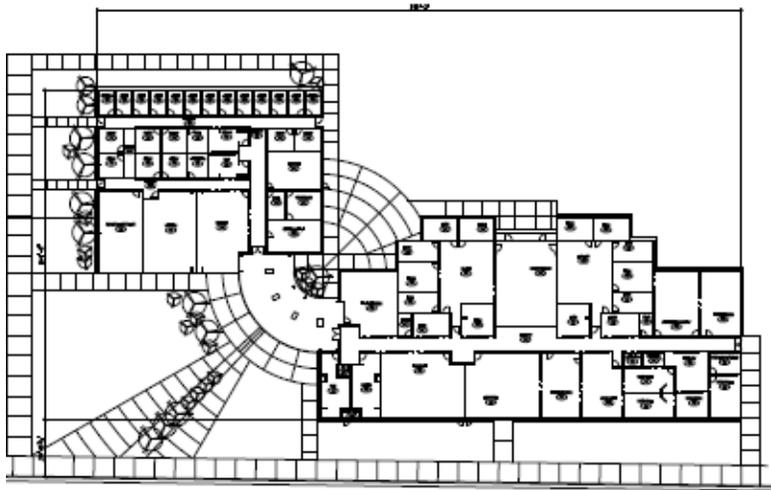


Measure H (Merced) In Planning

Allied Health Complex Project

This project was submitted to the Chancellor's Office as a Final Project Proposal (FPP) in May 2004. The project was included on the list of projects for the November 2006 State Bond. Preliminary Plans are completed and approved and Working Drawings are underway. The increasing demand for health professions in the San Joaquin Valley, and more specifically in the Merced area, has driven the need for this project. The new complex will consist of 30,931 square feet to house labs for the LVN, RN, Radiology Technology and CNA Programs, offices for faculty and meeting room space for faculty and public use. The building will be located on the Merced Campus, across from the proposed site for the new Mercy Hospital. This project is expected to begin in the fall of 2007.

Allied Health Complex Site Plan



Agriculture and Industrial Technology Complex

This 35,000 square foot, \$14 million dollar project combines two academic divisions (Agriculture and Industrial Technology) in response to changing education and technical training requirements of persons entering and continuing employment in the Agriculture and Industrial Technology sectors of Merced County as well as state/wide. An Initial Project Proposal (IPP) was submitted to the Chancellor's Office in July of 2005. The Chancellor's Office requested a Final Project Proposal (FPP), which was submitted July 1, 2006. It is anticipated the project will be included in the Governor's 2008-09 budget.

Measure H (Merced) In Planning

Student Union Remodel

Space vacated as a result of the Lesher Building Remodel Project will be remodeled to accommodate student functions. Associated Students of Merced College and Merced College Student Activities will benefit from this remodel. As described in the Merced College Master Plan, "Student Union space will be reverted back to the students."

Vocational Building Remodel Project

Space vacated as a result of construction of the Allied Health Complex will be remodeled to provide additional lecture, lab, and office space for the campus. This project also removes inaccessible functions from the basement of the theater; this space then reverts to non-assignable uses. An Initial Project Proposal (IPP) was submitted to the Chancellor's Office in July of 2006. The Chancellor's Office requested a Final Project Proposal (FPP), which will be submitted July 1, 2007. It is anticipated the project will be included in the Governor's 2009-10 budget.



Los Banos Campus Construction Progress Photos



Science Building Remodel Construction Progress Photos



STAY IN TOUCH

The Citizens' Oversight Committee meets twice a year to review Measure H and Measure J projects and progress. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, go to the District's web site at www.mccd.edu or call Sheila Flores, District Facilities Planning and Development Specialist, (209) 384-6225.



Merced Community College District

MERCED COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Robert Haden * Jinet Troost * Lewis S. Braxton * Eva de Long * Jim Glidden
Les McCabe * Eugene J. Vierra**

Benjamin T. Duran, Ed.D., Superintendent/President

Message from Merced Community College District Superintendent/President

It is my pleasure to present this Citizens' Bond Oversight Annual Report to the Merced Community College District Board of Trustees. This report reflects the hard work and time spent planning and executing construction projects over the past year.

This is an exciting time for the District and I am proud to be part of the process.

The members of the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee have worked hard to ensure that bond funds are spent accordingly. I thank them for their hard work and appreciate their time and dedication.

*Benjamin T. Duran
Superintendent/President
Merced Community College District*

