Proposition R—Transforming Educational Delivery

Wait lists to enroll in a lab science class are expected to shrink significantly with the addition of 19 new science labs in two Proposition R-funded projects.

The multi-story Math, Science & Engineering building under construction on the Chula Vista campus will contain 15 science classrooms, as well as a rooftop telescope platform and other energy-efficient features that provide students hands-on training.

“As a Physics major, I am excited to see the development of our campus to provide state-of-the-art resources for those pursuing higher education,” said student Rudolph Villegas.

At the Higher Education Center in National City, four new science classrooms will support the science needs of students in the Medical Lab Technician and Dental Hygiene programs. Business entrepreneurs will also have a tremendous resource in the new Center for Business Advancement (CBA) on the ground floor of the Higher Education Center.

Bringing together the Small Business Development Center network, the Center for International Trade Development and the San Diego Contracting Opportunities Center, the CBA is a one-stop shop to launch and grow your small business. The CBA is expected to open in December, 2016.

Proposition R has created hundreds of jobs for local construction companies and has contributed to the economic prosperity of South County.

A recent economic impact report conducted for Southwestern College by Economic Modeling Specialists International (Emsi) showed construction spending generated $25.4 million in fiscal year 2014-15 (the most recent year data was collected.) Overall, Southwestern College has an economic impact of $931.1 million annually for the region. That figure includes student spending on their education, alumni contribution to local taxes and the college’s operational spending.

A commitment made by the Southwestern College Governing Board was to ensure that Proposition R also benefited local workers. A goal of the Community Benefits Agreement was for 90 percent of the construction contracts to be awarded to companies that employed San Diego County-based workers. An additional goal was to have 35 percent of the workers on the jobs from communities within Southwestern College’s attendance area. The most recent data shows that Proposition R is well on its way to reaching those goals.

Of the contracts awarded, 85 percent have gone to companies with San Diego County-based workers. That translates to 587 of the 689 positions filled by San Diego County-based workers. Of that 85 percent, 26 percent were filled by workers living in South County. With the full scope of work at the Math, Science and Engineering project still to be realized, Proposition R management is confident the Governing Board’s goals will be met.

Proposition R continues working with the San Diego Contracting Opportunities Center to outreach to local women, minority and veteran-owned businesses to help them submit winning contract proposals for Proposition R projects.

These concerted efforts are helping Southwestern College and Proposition R fulfill its commitment to the taxpayers of South County.
Letter from the Chair

On behalf of the members of the Proposition R Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee, it is my pleasure to present our annual report.

Projects funded through Proposition R continued at full throttle during the period ending June 30, 2016. Most dramatic during this time has been the transformation of the lot at the corner of Otay Lakes Road and H Street. No longer a vacant lot, the corner has been a hive of activity since hundreds of trucks began moving dirt onto the site in February 2016. This clean dirt will serve as a foundation for the Wellness & Aquatics complex, which includes two 50-meter pools and a third therapy pool. Construction of this state-of-the-art project will continue to move rapidly through fiscal year 2016-17.

The second project planned for the corner lot—the Performing Arts & Cultural Complex—has progressed through the design phase this fiscal year. In September, 2015, architects from Tucker Sadler—who designed the new San Diego Public Library—conducted a community forum to present preliminary designs and gather feedback. To leverage funds from Proposition R, Tucker Sadler is also designing the multi-story parking structure that will be located in Lot O, near the Performing Arts & Cultural Complex.

Proposition R also earned accolades in 2016 when the City of Chula Vista awarded a Ribbons and Shovels award to the Fieldhouse for its energy conservation measures in construction and maintenance. Additionally, the college refinanced Proposition R and saved taxpayers $16 million.

As the community representatives to Proposition R, we welcomed two new members to the Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee: student representative Mona Dibas and at-large community representative Andrew McKercher. Additionally, three members were selected to serve another two-year term: advisory representative Michael Govea, senior citizen representative Bob Muff and business representative Lucas Rathe. We also thank former chair Dennis Gittens for his service.

We welcome you to find out more about our progress by going to our website: www.swccd.edu/propr. You can request a presentation to your community group, have your name added to our mailing list or leave a comment.

Thank you for your continued support of the students of Southwestern College.

Matt Yagyagan
Chair
Proposition R Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee
MATH, SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

After more than 50 years of service, the 1000 building was demolished during the summer to make room for the first section of the new multi-story math, science and engineering buildings. A ceremonial groundbreaking ceremony was held Oct. 12 and brought back retired Dean Janet Mazzarella to see the beginning of the building she helped design. Current Dean Michael Odu and members of the School of Math, Science and Engineering participated in the event.

Project Status:
Construction June 2016 to Fall 2018.

HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER AT NATIONAL CITY

The summer and fall were busy times at the Higher Education Center at National City. Construction workers cleared the corner of National City Boulevard and Plaza Boulevard in preparation for the new two-story classroom building. On Aug. 31, the center hosted a ceremonial groundbreaking that included members of the Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee, faculty and staff at the center and the Mayor of National City, Ron Morrison.

Project Status: Construction February 2016 to December 2017.
Wellness Center and Aquatics Complex

Construction for the Wellness Center and Aquatics Complex has moved quickly and has created daily changes to the corner lot.

**Project Status:** Construction scheduled for completion Fall 2017.

Security Building

A new security building to house the Campus Police Department and parking construction will be constructed near the Gotham Street entrance of the Chula Vista campus. The 6,000-square-foot building includes secure parking for police vehicles as well as information technology systems that support emergency communications, security cameras and campus access control.

**Project Status:** Design accepted by Division of State Architect in October, 2016. Construction scheduled to begin in late summer/fall 2017.

Performing Arts and Cultural Center

A community forum was held in September to see the first designs of the 500-seat theater and supporting spaces. The feedback from the meeting, as well as discussions with the visual and performing arts faculty, have been incorporated in the design submitted to the Division of State Architect.

**Project Status:** Design plans submitted to Division of State Architect December 2016.
FOCUS ON CAMPUS AGING INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS
Southwestern College continues to plan improvements and invest in new projects supporting the campus infrastructure needs. Ongoing projects include the modernization and upgrade of the fire alarm monitoring and reporting system, improvements to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning control systems, and expansion of the sewage collection system to underserved areas of campus and in advance of future capital construction projects. Working with the City of Chula Vista, a total campus sewer study was also completed to assist with the campus infrastructure master plan currently in development.

The campus main electrical distribution system, including transformers and switchgear installed in the 1960s and 1970s has been thoroughly investigated and assessed for capacity and condition. The first of several projects to replace this aging equipment has been awarded as part of the District's scheduled maintenance program.

STATE FUNDING FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS
In 2016, the District submitted a final project proposal for the San Ysidro Higher Education Center Phase II Expansion Project to the State Chancellor's Office for state matching funds during the 2018-2019 execution year, and in support of the District’s Educational and Facilities Master Plans and the 2016 submitted five-year Capital Construction Plan.

Annual performance and financial audits
The independent auditing firm of The Pun Group conducted an audit of the internal controls, finances and performance of Proposition R. In a report provided to the Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee and the Southwestern College Governing Board, the auditing firm has found the district's internal financial controls to be in compliance with Government Auditing Standards.

The objectives of the performance audit are to review Proposition R expenditures, determine if the Proposition R funds were used for the purposes set forth in the ballot measure and to comply with the California Constitution and Proposition 39. The auditing firm found Southwestern College to be in compliance of all material respects and in compliance with the performance requirements of Proposition 39.

Furthermore, there are no findings or questioned costs related to the performance audit of the Bond Fund for the year ended June 30, 2016.

“I am really proud of the district for addressing the needs of the students of the future well beyond my tenure here.”
– Rudolph Villegas, Physics Major
2017
The construction documents for the Performing Arts and Cultural Center are in review at the Division of the State Architect. Once this review is complete, construction will proceed in late 2017.

The Math, Science and Engineering Building is in full construction. The demolition of existing gym was deferred until the summer 2017 to save on interim facility costs until the new gym is complete as part of the Wellness Center and Aquatic Complex project.

Construction of new science labs, classrooms and a medical clinic continues at the Higher Education Center at National City. The Center for Business Advancement modernization work is completed.

Complete construction of the Wellness Center and Aquatics Complex on the Chula Vista Campus.

Complete a review of the existing facilities master plan in support of the campus educational master plan and start the programming and design process of priority projects in the facilities master plan.

2018
Complete construction of Math, Science and Engineering buildings.

Continue construction of the Performing Arts and Cultural Center.

Continue Chula Vista Campus infrastructure improvements.

Begin construction on priority projects identified in the 2017 facilities master plan review.
Proposition R is the $389 million general obligation bond approved by voters in 2008. Proceeds from the bonds are to be used for construction, reconstruction and/or rehabilitation of facilities, including the furnishing and equipping of facilities, acquisition, or lease of real property for its facilities and construction management by district personnel.

The goal of the district’s construction efforts is to improve affordable community college education and job training for the residents of South Bay. Bond proceeds will provide project funding at the college’s main Chula Vista campus and at each of its three Higher Education Centers in National City, Otay Mesa and San Ysidro.