

2019-2020 Annual Report

Measures H & J

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A message from the Measure H & J Citizens' Oversight Committee

To Our Community:

Welcome to the seventeenth 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. The committee presents this report to the Community based on information that has been provided to the committee and the auditor's annual reports.

This committee represents a cross section of the Merced Community College District community, which includes communities in 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 members of this committee, we can assure you that the people of Merced Community College 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 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 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 per year. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Meeting dates and locations are published on the District's website. You are also welcome to contact us with your comments and/or questions.

We look forward to hearing from you.

*Merced Community College District
Proposition 39 Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee*



**MERCED
COLLEGE**

Measures H (Merced) and J (Los Banos)

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 twice per year 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.

Citizens' Oversight Committee Members

Tarence McCullough
Merced College Student

Marty Marchini
Citizen of Community

Billie Razzari
Member of Business Community

Judy Rose
Member of Senior Citizen Organization

Mark Schrieber
Member of Business Community

Chris Tomford
Citizen of Community

Jim Williamson
Member of College Support Organization

Merced Community College District Programming Team

Joe Allison
Vice President, District Administrative Services

Andre Urquidez
Director, Business and Fiscal Services

Marcus Metcalf
Director, Capital Planning and Construction

Measure H (Merced) Featured Projects



Completed

Learning Resources Center Project

The new Learning Resources Center (Library) was completed in January of 2007 and opened to students on February 20, 2007. The facility is the largest building on the Merced campus with more than 74,500 square feet of space. The LRC was funded through state and local education bonds at a cost of \$17.8 million.



Science Building Remodel Project

This building opened to students for the Fall 2007 semester and provides teaching and learning spaces to accommodate increased enrollment in the sciences and math areas on the main campus in Merced. With expanding pressure for additional lower division courses at the community college level, enrollment has increased significantly in the physical sciences. The Science Building Remodel Project was funded using state and local education bonds.

Business Resource Center Project

This project was completed in time for the Spring 2008 semester and includes space for employment training and economic development programs. The building contains: classrooms, computer laboratories, conference rooms and community meeting spaces for college/business collaboration, and faculty/staff space. This building is located off campus on 19th Street, near Merced City Hall. The Business Resource Center Project was funded primarily from local education bonds.



Measure H (Merced) Projects



Completed

Lesher Building Remodel Project

This project was completed March 7, 2008 and reactivated 21,660 square feet of remodeled space, formerly 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, Student Fees, Financial Aid, EOPS and DSPS.) Merced College is proud to provide this one-stop-shopping concept to our students.

Student Union Renovation Administration Building Remodel Projects

Space vacated as a result of the Lesher Building Remodel Project was remodeled to accommodate student functions. Associated Students and Student Activities of Merced College have benefited from this remodel. As described in the Merced College Master Plan, "Student Union space will be reverted back to the students." A new, state-of-the-art, Board Room was also included as part of this project. These projects were completed and opened in Spring 2009.

Allied Health Complex Project

This project began on September 25, 2007 and was completed for Summer 2009 classes. The new complex consists of 30,931 square feet to house labs for the LVN, RN, Diagnostic Radiologic Technology and CNA Programs, offices for faculty and meeting room space for faculty and public use. The building is located on the Merced Campus, in close proximity to the new Mercy Medical Center.

Theater Basement ADA Improvement Project

This project was submitted to the Chancellor's Office as a Project Proposal in 2008. Because of the delay in state funding, the District proceeded with the project using bond ABR funds. The project was completed in Spring of 2013 and provides an elevator and renovated basement facilities. Individuals are now able to access the Theater Basement, as well as the green room and stage, via the new elevator.

In Progress

Student Union Remodel

This project provides a new space for the Student Health Services department as well as the ASMC Food Pantry. This remodel provided benefits directly to students of Merced College. The Student Health Services will have an exam room with a sink and state of the art exam table, a restroom, private counseling office, and student nurse office. The ASMC Food Pantry will include dry goods, a refrigerator, freezer, clothes closet, and a washer and dryer.

Administration Building Renovation

This project provides an update to the Boardroom and the Administration Conference Room.

In Planning

Agriculture and Industrial Technology Complex Project

This 19,811 assignable square foot, \$25 million dollar project combines two academic divisions (Agriculture and Industrial Technology.) The Project is at the Final Project Proposal (FPP) stage and the project has been approved for funding for Preliminary Plans and Working Drawings in 2019-20. Darden Architects has been selected to complete this project.

Vocational Building Remodel

Grant funding has been requested for a remodel of classrooms in the Vocational Building. We are still waiting to receive notification as to whether our request will be approved. If so, the grant will provide \$3 million dollars to augment this project.

Measure J (Los Banos) Featured Projects



Completed

Los Banos Site Development/ Permanent Educational Facilities

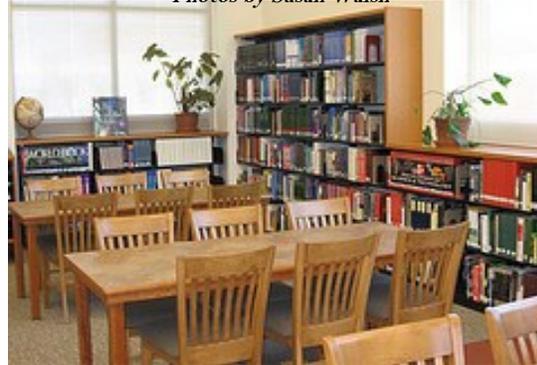
On-site development of facilities extended the infrastructure onto the permanent site. This project delivered the first building for the new campus, which consists of three teaching labs, six general purpose classrooms, offices and a small library. The total square feet for this project is 13,023. This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



Photos by Susan Walsh

Academic and Vocational Technology Project

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



The new Los Banos Campus

The new campus is housed on 125 acres to the west of Los Banos along Highway 152. A Grand Opening was held on Friday, September 7, 2007.



Measures H and J: The First Eighteen 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, the North Loop Road, Learning Resources Center, Science Building Remodel, Business Resource Center, Leshar Building Remodel, Allied Health Complex Project, Student Union Building, Administration Building and the Theater have been built and/or renovated. The Student Union Building and the Administration Building are currently undergoing updated renovations which include a renovated Boardroom and a remodeled Student Health Center. The final major Bond funded project, the Agricultural Industrial Technology Complex, of which \$12.6 million dollars has been approved by the Chancellor's Office includes a local Measure H contribution of \$12.29 million dollars.

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.

On June 19, 2003, the first series of Bonds in the amount of \$20,000,000 and \$5,140,000 for the Merced Campus and Los Banos Campus, respectively, were issued. On August 1, 2005, the second series of Bonds in the amount of \$6,790,000 for the Los Banos campus were issued. On August 1, 2006, the District issued a second series of Bonds for the Merced Campus in the amount of \$24,000,000. On November 16, 2006, the District refunded the Los Banos Campus Series 2003 and Series 2005 Bonds in the amount of \$10,740,000. The total proceeds from the Bond issuance were received by the District (less the original bond issuance costs) and are to be used to finance the construction, acquisition, furnishing, and equipping of District facilities. In 2011, the District refunded the Merced Campus series 2003; resulting in a savings of over \$1 million to the taxpayers of SFID 1 (School Facility Improvement District).

The audit firm, Gilbert and Associates, Inc., conducted audits of the bond expenditures and activities for the period July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. The firm reported:

“Based upon the procedures performed, we found that, for the items tested, the Merced Community College District has properly accounted for the expenditures of the 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. Our audit does not provide a legal determination on the District's compliance with specific requirements.”

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

Merced Community College District Home to Design Award Buildings

Merced Community College District is proud to be home to four design award winning projects designed by Lionakis Design Group Inc. The projects are highlighted below.



Merced Campus

***Interdisciplinary
Academic Center***

2005 AIA SV
***Design Excellence
Award***

Los Banos Campus
***Complete Campus
Design***

2007 CCFC
***Design Excellence
Merit Award***



Merced Campus

***Learning Resources
Center***

2007 AIA SV
***Design Excellence
Award***



Merced Campus

***Allied Health
Complex***

2009 AIA SV
***Design Excellence
Award***



STAY IN TOUCH

The Citizens' Oversight Committee meets twice per 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:
www.mccd.edu or contact Denise Butler,
Administrative Assistant to the
Vice President of Administrative Services
denise.butler@mccd.edu - (209) 384-6201**

MERCED COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Carmen Ramirez* Ernie Ochoa * Joe Gutierrez
Mario Mendoza * Sue Chappell * Jean Upton * John Pedrozo

