



Construction has begun on the Student Services/Learning Resources Center, whose design will mirror the now-completed Science Center at the Canyon Country campus.

Audit: Bond Expenditures in Compliance

The college district received the best rating possible in an independent audit of its general obligation bond expenditures.

The Santa Clarita Community College District’s Independent Citizens Oversight Committee accepted the audit results, which showed that for the 13th year in a row the district has properly accounted for all bond expenditures and expended them in accordance with the projects approved by voters in the Measure E ballot measure.

Eide Bailly LLP conducted both the financial and performance audits covering the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 and issued the district an unmodified opinion – the best rating possible – noting no adjustments, audit findings, questioned costs, or instances of noncompliance.

The firm presented its report to the bond oversight committee on Jan. 28, and the report was presented to the college’s Board of Trustees on Feb. 23.

“I was pleased to report to the District’s Board of Trustees that the commit-

tee had fulfilled its obligation for 2020 to review and report on the expenditure of bond funds to ensure they are spent in accordance with the provisions of Measure E,” said Kevin Holmes, chair of the oversight committee. “The committee recognizes the importance of ensuring that taxpayer dollars are spent properly, and we are happy to volunteer our time to act as fiduciaries in this regard.”

The 2019-20 audits confirm approximately \$141.8 million in resources from the first two bond issuances, which also includes earned interest and net premium in the bonds. Of that, \$61.7 million was expended on authorized bond projects, leaving the district with a Measure E fund balance of \$80.1 million as of June 30, 2020.

“The Independent Citizens Oversight Committee plays an essential role in assuring community members that the college is appropriately allocating bond funds for construction projects that will provide much needed facilities for instructional programs that help our students achieve their educational goals,” said Sharlene Coleal, assistant superintendent, vice president of business services.

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– DR. DIANNE G. VAN HOOK, CHANCELLOR

“I want to thank the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee for their meticulous and dedicated work to ensure transparency,” Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook said. “Without the support of the Santa Clarita Valley community, we could not continue to meet the needs of our students and provide them with access to high-quality education and tools for success.”

Local voters approved Measure E in June 2016 for a total of \$230 million to fund multiple projects at both campuses. The bonds funded construction of the Science Center, which serves as a focal point for students and visitors at the Canyon Country campus. Construction is complete

on the 55,000-square-foot building, which is devoted primarily to physical and biological sciences, housing eight labs, plus lecture classrooms.

The four-story Student Services/Learning Resources Center will be the new home to Student Services and TLC. The 55,000-square-foot-building is under construction adjacent to the Science Center and will provide office and library space.

Measure E provided the funding for those two projects and will fund future construction at both campuses. Measure E was also used to build a three-story parking structure at the Valencia campus and renovate several existing buildings at the Valencia campus.

Project Summary

Major projects funded by Measures E and M. Projects funded by Measure C are included when funding was derived in combination with Measure M.

STUDENT SERVICES/LRC

LOCATION: CANYON COUNTRY
STATUS: IN PROGRESS
SCOPE: 55,000 SF BUILDING
MEASURE E: \$33,500,000

BOYKIN HALL

LOCATION: VALENCIA
STATUS: IN PROGRESS
SCOPE: MODERNIZATION
MEASURE E: \$4,800,000
STATE: \$4,800,000
TOTAL: \$9,600,000

LECTURE BUILDING

LOCATION: CANYON COUNTRY
STATUS: PLANNING
MEASURE E: \$1,000,000

SCIENCE CENTER

LOCATION: CANYON COUNTRY
STATUS: COMPLETED 2021
SCOPE: 55,000 SF
MEASURE M: \$11,500,000
MEASURE E: \$28,900,000
TOTAL: \$40,400,000

HVAC AND FOOD SERVICE

LOCATION: CANYON COUNTRY
STATUS: COMPLETED 2020
SCOPE: MODULAR HVAC UPGRADE AND CAFE MODERNIZATION
MEASURE E: \$1,500,000

PHYSICAL EDUCATION WEST

LOCATION: VALENCIA
STATUS: COMPLETED 2020
SCOPE: MODERNIZATION
MEASURE E: \$5,500,000

ADA TRANSITION PLAN

LOCATION: VALENCIA
STATUS: PHASE 1 COMPLETED; PHASE 2 IN PLANNING
MEASURE M: \$2,500,000
MEASURE E: \$7,500,000
TOTAL: \$10,000,000

DOOR/LOCK REPLACEMENT

LOCATION: DISTRICTWIDE
STATUS: PHASE 1 AND 2 COMPLETED
MEASURE M: \$1,774,197 (PHASE 1)
MEASURE E: \$925,000 (PHASE 2)
TOTAL: \$2,699,197

CENTRAL PLANT

LOCATION: CANYON COUNTRY
STATUS: COMPLETED 2019
MEASURE M: \$2,800,000
MEASURE E: \$4,700,000
TOTAL: \$7,500,000

PARKING STRUCTURE

LOCATION: VALENCIA
STATUS: COMPLETED 2019
SCOPE: 1,659 SPACES, THREE LEVELS
MEASURE M: \$4,700,000
MEASURE E: \$19,200,000
TOTAL: \$23,900,000

BOYKIN LECTURE HALL

LOCATION: VALENCIA
STATUS: COMPLETED 2019
SCOPE: REMODEL
MEASURE E: \$830,000



SCIENCE CENTER
CANYON COUNTRY CAMPUS

SOCCER FIELD

LOCATION: VALENCIA
STATUS: COMPLETED 2016
MEASURE M: \$2,366,956

SCIENCE LAB

LOCATION: CANYON COUNTRY
STATUS: COMPLETED 2017
SCOPE: MODERNIZATION
MEASURE M: \$1,093,412

PARKING LOT

LOCATION: CANYON COUNTRY
STATUS: COMPLETED 2016
MEASURE M: \$1,380,995

CANYONS HALL

LOCATION: VALENCIA
STATUS: COMPLETED 2015
SCOPE: 46,370 SF
MEASURE M: \$11,273,633
STATE: \$6,308,000
LOCAL: \$12,446
TOTAL: \$17,594,079

CULINARY ARTS FACILITY

LOCATION: VALENCIA
STATUS: COMPLETED 2015
SCOPE: 12,208 SF
MEASURE M: \$8,544,048
LOCAL: \$1,320,600
TOTAL: \$9,864,648

LIBRARY/TLC EXPANSION

LOCATION: VALENCIA
STATUS: COMPLETED 2012
SCOPE: 51,435 SF (86,606 TOTAL)
MEASURE M: \$6,432,069
STATE: \$9,414,000
TOTAL: \$15,846,069

APPLIED TECH CENTER

LOCATION: CANYON COUNTRY
STATUS: COMPLETED 2011
SCOPE: 15,000 SF
MEASURE M: \$7,114,273

MENTRY HALL EXPANSION

LOCATION: VALENCIA
STATUS: COMPLETED 2010
SCOPE: 28,000 SF (78,237 TOTAL)
MEASURE M: \$12,428,583
LOCAL: \$100,000
TOTAL: \$12,528,583

UNIVERSITY CENTER

LOCATION: VALENCIA
STATUS: COMPLETED 2009
SCOPE: 110,000 SF
MEASURES M & C: \$9,816,584
STATE: \$20,974,000
LOCAL: \$9,024,396
TOTAL: \$39,814,980

CANYON COUNTRY CAMPUS

LOCATION: CANYON COUNTRY
STATUS: PHASE 1 COMPLETED 2007
SCOPE: LAND, SITE DEVELOPMENT, MODULAR FACILITIES
MEASURES M & C: \$58,011,265

Science Center Opens



The 55,000-square-foot Science Center opened for classes this fall at the Canyon Country campus. Clockwise from top: The south side of the building faces an expansive courtyard area; hallways are designed to provide study spaces; learning and meeting areas are designed to be flexible; an outdoor amphitheater is immediately adjacent and stretches to the Student Services/Learning Resources Center, which is now under construction; a view of the amphitheater and the south-facing side of the building.

Bond Refinancing Saves Taxpayers \$2.9 Million

College of the Canyons refinanced \$36.8 million of outstanding general obligation bond debt. The district's taxpayers will have cash flow savings of \$2.9 million. This represents an overall savings of 5.79 percent of the bonds that were refinanced.

"The Santa Clarita Community College District has a longstanding reputation for finding ways to save local property owners money whenever possible," Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook said. "We are very pleased to have been able to refinance our general obligations once again with fantastic results."

The Board of Trustees voted April 14 to refinance these particular general obligation bonds from Measure M and Measure C. The sale was completed on May 27.

"Since 2013, the Santa Clarita Com-

munity College District's refinancing efforts have resulted in nearly \$50 million in cumulative savings to taxpayers," said Sharlene Coleal, assistant superintendent, vice president of business services.

This is the fourth time in eight years the college has refinanced bonds in an effort to lessen the tax impact on property owners. A 2019 refinance yielded \$8.3 million of savings, which represented a 12.96 percent reduction. That refinance also lowered taxes for area property owners. Prior refinances occurred in 2016 and 2013.

"I applaud the Santa Clarita Community College District for its repeated efforts to provide savings to local taxpayers over the years," said Kevin Holmes, chair of the bond oversight committee. "Their proactive approach to bond refinancing is truly admirable and is great news for the Santa

Clarita Valley community."

The Government Finance Officers Association, a national non-profit that provides guidance to improve government management, advises that bond refinancing should be considered if it can save taxpayers at least 3 percent.

Measure C, which local voters passed in 2001, funded a number of significant improvements, including the acquisition of 70 acres of land on Sierra Highway to develop the Canyon Country campus, and building the Hasley Hall classroom and computer facility, the Aliso Hall and Aliso Lab science facilities, and the Pico Canyon Hall performing arts classrooms and rehearsal spaces.

The funding provided through Measure M, approved by voters in 2006, helped the college complete a number of projects,

including construction of all initial buildings at the Canyon Country campus. It also qualified the college to receive matching state funds to build the Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center, which now offers multiple bachelor's and master's degree programs. Other key projects include the Culinary Arts building, the Mentry Hall classroom expansion, the Library and Learning Center expansion, the Applied Technology Education Center at the Canyon Country campus, and the Canyons Hall student services center.

Together, Measure C and Measure M qualified College of the Canyons to receive \$56.2 million in construction funds from the state. Colleges that have local bond funds available are given priority when applying for construction funding from the state.