



# COLLEGE OF THE DESERT CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE 2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014



## LETTER FROM THE MEASURE B CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CHAIR

Dear Coachella Valley Residents,

The Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee is pleased to present its tenth annual report as required by Proposition 39, the legislative authority of Measure B. As your local representatives, it is our responsibility to oversee the expenditure of bond funds, as approved by the College of the Desert's Trustees, to ascertain that they are spent as specified in the ballot measure.

Measure B was approved by voters in March 2004, and, as required by the terms of the issue, the College Board of Trustees appointed an independent Citizens Oversight Committee. Your seven members represent a cross-section of Coachella Valley residents.

Our open meetings are held quarterly to review and discuss progress reports related to bond projects in various stages of development, expenditures of bond funds, as well as future plans and financial projections. We essentially perform a due diligence function. We question representatives of the College who work on the various projects, as well as the auditors engaged to assure that funds are spent in accordance with Measure B. As a committee, we have been impressed with the College's organization, planning, attention to detail, and the diligence of its staff.

On the Palm Desert Campus, 2013-2014 saw the completion of the new Visual Arts Building, the Stagecraft Shop facility which supports the Theatre Arts program and the Kinesiology Building which is part of the larger Athletic Facilities project. 2013 also saw the completion of the Monterey Avenue Entrance Project. The desert friendly design of the new entrance welcomes students and visitors to the campus with modern flares and design features which draw from the Valley's surrounding beauty. Planning and design continued for other classroom buildings as well as a new state of the art Gymnasium specified in the Bond Measure. These new facilities replace insufficient or inefficient buildings with new permanent classrooms and labs.

In Indio, construction was completed on a three story building housing classrooms, offices and multiuse rooms. The Desert Community College District's Indio Campus has seen incredible success in its enrollment numbers since it opened its doors in February of 2014. Students from the East Valley are eager to take advantage of the new facility resulting in classrooms at full capacity. The Mecca/Thermal Campus continues to have great success in drawing students and has also seen substantial surges in enrollment numbers.

In Palm Springs, the Desert Community College District has refocused its efforts to a location more central to the city. Its new proposed location is the Palm Springs Mall located on Farrell Drive. An Environmental Impact Report is currently underway, and the District is anticipating entering into the design phase for this site in the Fall of 2015.

These voter approved projects address the College's most critical facility needs, including safety issues, energy savings, technology, and training programs in response to community needs. These changes will enable College of the Desert to continue to provide an opportunity for a first-class education to youths and adults in the Coachella Valley. The College improves the quality of life for the entire region through its training of professionals and workers for the economic base industries of the valley.

Information on past and future meetings and the on-going bond projects can be found at College of the Desert's website: [www.bond.collegeofthedesert.edu](http://www.bond.collegeofthedesert.edu). We welcome all members of the public to our meetings. Feel free to contact us with your comments or questions.

Sincerely,  
Larry Spicer, *Committee Chair*

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## MEASURE B

In March 2004, the citizens of the Coachella Valley approved a general obligation bond measure of \$346.5 million to fund facilities projects to train local residents for jobs, prepare students for four-year colleges and accommodate increasing student enrollment at College of the Desert by:

- Expanding nursing/police/fire-fighting training facilities;
- Repairing sewer systems, leaky roofs, decaying walls, plumbing, electrical systems;
- Upgrading/adding classrooms for computer technology;
- Repairing, acquiring, constructing, equipping buildings, sites, classrooms; and
- Acquiring sites and developing campuses in east and west valley areas.

The Board of Trustees of the Desert Community College District evaluated the District's urgent and critical facility needs, including safety issues, enrollment growth, energy reduction and information and computer technology in developing the scope of projects to be funded. These are outlined in the College of the Desert Facilities Master Plan, approved on November 19, 2003, and further amended from time to time. In developing the scope of projects, the faculty, staff and students have prioritized the key health and safety needs so that the most critical needs are addressed. The Board of Trustees conducted independent facility

evaluations and received public input and review in developing the scope of the college facility projects to be funded. The projects are listed in the Facilities Master Plan which was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees. This input of faculty, staff, and community and business leaders concluded that if these needs were not addressed now, the problems would only get worse. In preparing the Facilities Master Plan, the Board of Trustees made five important determinations:

- It is critically important for College of the Desert to provide facilities for job and vocational training to students and adults seeking to acquire job skills demanded by local businesses;
- College of the Desert must provide facilities to increase the number of trained nurses to help relieve the serious nursing shortage in the area;
- College of the Desert must add new facilities and classrooms to meet the rapid growth in the area which has resulted in thousands of new students seeking an affordable local college education;
- College of the Desert must provide facilities for academic programs to students who want to transfer to a four-year college; and
- The mission of College of the Desert is to provide facilities that support adult continuing education classes in subjects like financial planning, accounting and computers.

## AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE OF THE CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Measure B was 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 College of the Desert Board of Trustees appointed an independent committee of citizens to oversee the expenditure of all bond funds. Proposition 39 requires representatives from taxpayer groups, business and industry, senior citizens' organizations and students, and is charged with ensuring that all bond funds are

spent as promised on capital projects within the College district.

Since September 2004, the Committee has been meeting regularly to review the College's bond-funded construction program and to ensure the program maximizes all funding sources and makes the most prudent use of taxpayer dollars. The Committee is also charged with assuring that the College adheres to the requirements of Proposition 39, including spending funds only on those projects identified in Measure B and approved by the voters.



## INCOMING BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2014-2015



Seven people are responsible for overseeing the \$346.5 million bond issue approved by voters in March 2004 for College of the Desert construction and campus renovations. The group meets quarterly to review expenditures and to see that the Proposition 39 guidelines are followed. They're responsible for an audit and an annual report. They (and the constituencies they represent)



are, (from left, top row): Larry Spicer, Chair, College Support Organization Representative, Retired, Real Estate Industry; Kenneth Eklund, Vice Chair, Senior Citizen Group Representative, CEO of Safe-T-Proof of Riverside County, Inc.; Lawrence M. Cohen, Business Representative, Senior Managing Director and Shareholder, Mesirow Financial; Chris Escobedo, Taxpayers' Association Representative, Assistant to the City Manager, City of La Quinta; Geoffrey S. Kiehl, East Valley Representative, Director of Finance & Treasurer, City of Palm Springs; William H. Waldron, West Valley Representative, Retired, 3M Company; and Patricia "Tish" Lacy, Student Representative.



## 2013-14 CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Geoffrey S. Kiehl**  
*Chair, East Valley*

**Kenneth Eklund**  
*Vice Chair, Senior Citizen Group*

**Larry Spicer**  
*College Support Organization*

**William H. Waldron**  
*West Valley*

**Chris Escobedo**  
*Taxpayers' Association*

**Larry M. Cohen**  
*Business*

**Brenda Valdez**  
*Student*

## COLLEGE OF THE DESERT PROGRAM MANAGEMENT TEAM

**Lisa Howell**  
*Vice President, Business Affairs*

**Steve Renew**  
*Director, Facilities Services*

**John Ramont**  
*Director, Fiscal Services*

**Mac McGinnis**  
*Program Manager,  
Education Information Systems  
Professionals*



## TENTH YEAR REPORT: MEASURE B PROJECTS COMPLETED OR IN PROCESS

Since the passage of Measure B in 2004, the District has followed a building program that responds to its Education Master Plan, facilities condition assessment; the need for replacement of insufficient or inefficient facilities; seismic, safety and other building code issues, and long overdue infrastructure and technology upgrades. This process continues to be followed with updated data for educational needs and continuously updated building codes. The District takes seriously its responsibility to be good stewards of the Bond proceeds to ensure the demands of the Bond language and the expectations of the citizens of the Coachella Valley are met while completing right sized, well planned projects that will serve the District and the community far into the future. Planning began on several new projects on the Palm Desert campus as well as the new facilities planned for east and west valley sites.

During the tenth year of the Measure B program, construction was completed on the Visual Arts building located on the northwest side of campus. This space provides a new building with classrooms for programs including: 2D drawing and painting, 3D sculpture, printmaking, photography (both print and digital) and ceramics. Students occupied the building in Spring of 2014.



The Monterey Entrance, which was completed in September of 2014, serves as a picturesque gateway to the campus. Construction was completed on a new roundabout that helps ensure a seamless flow of traffic as students, faculty and staff navigate their way around campus. The newly constructed space between the

Communication and Cravens Student Services Center buildings includes shaded assembly space and seating areas where students can study and rest with access to electricity for their electronic devices.



In Indio, at the former site of the Greyhound bus station, construction was completed on a three-story, 40,000 sq. ft. building. The new structure houses classrooms, labs, offices, support & retail space. The new Indio Campus was occupied by students in February of 2014 and has seen unprecedented enrollment numbers. Classes are full as the residents of the East Valley take full advantage of a state of the art campus right in their backyard.



Construction continued on the new gymnasium as the renovation of the Kinesiology Building came to completion. The Kinesiology Building houses a new weight room, two multi-purpose rooms and faculty offices. The new gymnasium



## TENTH YEAR REPORT: MEASURE B PROJECTS COMPLETED OR IN PROCESS

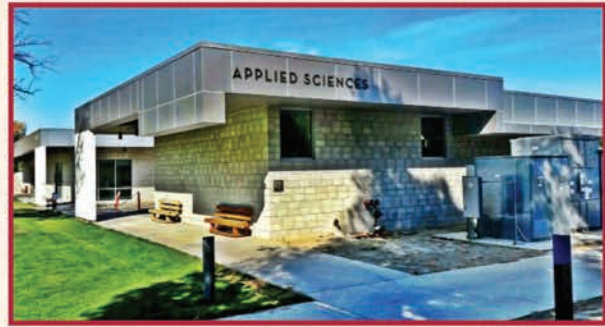
will include basketball courts, team rooms and locker rooms. Both buildings are highly energy efficient and sustainable. The construction of eight tennis courts is slated to complete construction in late 2014.



Construction of the Childhood Development Center building began in summer of 2013. This facility is located immediately adjacent to the existing childcare facility on campus and enables the Center to offer more teaching and learning opportunities for COD students with classrooms, observation rooms, offices and a kitchen.



Construction on the Applied Sciences building commenced Fall 2013 and continues to make good progress through 2014. This facility will house classes that are currently held in deteriorating metal buildings and buildings with seismic, safety and other code concerns. A renovated building and outdoor labs, along with a new building with classrooms, labs and offices, will provide for a consolidated facility for all of these programs.



Construction on the new Stagecraft Shop located next door to the Theatre Too building was completed Spring 2014. Prior to the construction of this 3,345 sq. ft. shop, faculty and students used a small outdoor area to learn about stage design and build sets for upcoming performances.



Planning continues for the renovation of the buildings in the center of the campus for the relocation of Library and Academic Skills services, offices of administrative services, and community meeting space that are housed in several areas, some of which are in temporary modular buildings. This will bring all of the Learning Resources into a cohesive space, where now they are distributed in makeshift locations across the campus, as well as bringing administrative services together in a more efficient and interrelating space.

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is underway of the site of the new West Valley Campus in Palm Springs.





## ADDENDUM

The District reaffirms the efficacy of continuing the bond program to completion at a time when it faces operating budget challenges due to reductions in state funding. It was concluded that it was essentially impractical to contemplate suspension of the bond program and in fact there are at least ten good reasons for pursuing it to completion:

1. It enables COD to develop new campus sites and facilities to serve the entire Coachella Valley during the second 50 years of the College's existence.
2. It addresses contemporary health and safety, disability access, and building code compliance requirements.
3. It gives students and faculty access to the highest quality teaching and learning environments which is critical to our mission.
4. It enables renovation of substandard and no-longer-fit-for-purpose facilities and permits systematic replacement of all modular buildings.

5. It facilitates the replacement of aging and inefficient services infrastructure.
6. It takes COD closer to contemporary technology standards.
7. It positions COD long-term to meet the demands of a growing and diversifying valley population once the short-term state funding crisis is overcome.
8. It provides the opportunity for COD to practically demonstrate leadership in sustainability stewardship in all its new buildings and campuses.
9. It must be aggressively pursued to completion because the bond funds must be expended in a defined timeframe for the purposes identified in the bond election and we are currently enjoying the most favorable construction market in years.
10. It represents a significant economic development driver for the valley in its own right currently and in the longer term through the facilities created.

## SUSTAINABILITY STEWARDSHIP, WALKING THE GREEN TALK AT COLLEGE OF THE DESERT

The College of the Desert is proud to announce the award of two LEED Gold Certifications for both the Math Science Technology Center and the Child Development Center as well as a LEED Silver Certification at the Indio Campus.

The District is also excited to announce that both the Communication Building and the Visual Arts Building are pending LEED Gold Certification. The District's Policy of Sustainability Stewardship, its Green Council Annual Reports, and other Sustainability Performance Targets and Guidelines can be found on the District's website, at <http://www.collegeofthedesert.edu/community/ss/Pages/default.aspx>. These, as well as other Bond planning and design documents are available on the Bond website [www.bond.collegeofthedesert.edu](http://www.bond.collegeofthedesert.edu).

Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), the LEED® Green Building Rating System™ is a framework for identifying, implementing and measuring green building and neighborhood design, construction, operations and maintenance. LEED is voluntary and designed for new and

existing commercial, institutional, and residential building, including neighborhood development. Several categories are used in the LEED Green Building Rating System such as sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, awareness and education, location and linkages, neighborhood pattern and design, green infrastructure and building, innovation in design /operations, and regional priority.

The LEED rating system is based on a 100 point scale with an extra 10 bonus points available for innovation in design, exemplary performance, or achievement of credits identified as having regional importance on a project's location. LEED certification is awarded based on this scale: 40-49 points Certified; 50-59 points Silver; 60-79 points Gold; and 80+ points Platinum. There are four standard principal types of LEED requirements: prerequisites, core credits, innovation credits and regional priority credits. For more information about LEED® Certification and guidelines visit the U.S. Green Building Council website at [www.usgbc.org/](http://www.usgbc.org/).

## INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE AUDITS

In compliance with Proposition 39, the Board of Trustees engaged the independent audit firm of Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP, to complete independent audits of the financial records and the construction records of the bond program.

The first issuance for bond sales was for \$65 million in August 2004 and refunded in June 2005 bringing the total to \$73 million. In November 2007, the District issued General Obligation Bonds, Series 2007B in the amount of \$57,850,000. In December 2007, the District issued the final approved principal amount of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2007C in the amount of \$223,648,444. The District's bond insured rating from Moody and S&P continued as AAA. The audit firm

reported that the College of the Desert "...has properly accounted for the expenditures of the funds held in the Bond Fund and that such expenditures were made on authorized bond projects. Further it was noted that the funds held in the Bond Fund and expended by the District were not expended for salaries of school administrators or other operating expenditures." The audit had no adverse findings and no questionable costs were noted.

A copy of the full financial and performance audits can be viewed on the College of the Desert Bond web page at [www.bond.collegeofthedesert.edu](http://www.bond.collegeofthedesert.edu).



# UPDATED BOND PROJECTS EXPENDITURES AND PROGRESS REPORT AT JUNE 30, 2014

Audited results as reported to the Citizens' Oversight Committee by District Staff. Total budget does not include other funding sources. For more details on expenditures go to [www.bond.collegeofthedesert.edu](http://www.bond.collegeofthedesert.edu).

	Actual Costs for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014	Actual Costs August 1, 2004 through June 30, 2014	Total Budget
<b>JOB AND CAREER TRAINING PROJECTS</b>			
Applied Sciences	\$ 7,996,934	\$ 9,866,497	\$ 12,381,000
Barker Nursing Complex	0	10,962,344	10,962,344
Burn Tower	0	2,875,267	2,875,267
Child Development Center	5,062,098	5,747,272	6,274,000
Nursing Building Renovation	0	3,538,287	3,538,287
Public Safety Academy Phase I	0	14,911,665	14,911,665
Subtotal	\$ 13,059,031	\$ 47,901,332	\$ 50,942,563
<b>CLASSROOM BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES</b>			
Alumni Centre	\$ 0	\$ 2,714,816	\$ 2,714,816
Athletic Facilities	11,684,270	17,964,553	23,622,401
Aquatics Swimming Pool Demolition	0	290,087	290,087
Business Building Renovation	0	4,598,036	4,598,036
Central Campus Redevelopment	112,046	1,427,832	37,550,000
Communications Building	1,134,028	20,188,069	20,309,659
Cravens Student Center	49	22,946,554	22,961,480
Culinary Kitchen	0	410,529	410,529
Dining Hall Renovation	0	5,399,909	5,399,909
East Valley Phase I	1,250	9,789,852	9,913,929
Imaging	172,915	299,040	400,000
Indio Educational Center	15,281,940	23,648,640	23,909,850
Math Science Technology	276,522	23,981,618	24,090,932
Relocations Project	346,938	551,170	1,500,000
Scene Shop	0	74,676	74,676
Science Labs	0	223,624	223,624
Soil Contingency	0	0	201,500
South Annex	0	3,867,843	3,867,843
Stagecraft Shop	1,667,909	1,592,342	1,750,000
Temporary Dining Facilities	0	752,840	752,840
Visual Arts Building	6,336,456	8,145,419	8,515,353
Voice Over I.P. Communication	0	964,487	964,487
West Valley Desert Hot Springs	0	1,140	1,140
West Valley Phase I	151,541	5,403,239	39,990,000
Wireless Access	0	322,555	322,555
Subtotal	\$ 37,165,865	\$ 155,558,870	\$ 234,335,646
<b>HEALTH AND SAFETY PROJECTS</b>			
Subtotal	\$ 580,377	\$ 39,436,212	\$ 40,031,848
<b>ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS</b>			
Subtotal	\$ 5,530	\$ 16,453,015	\$ 16,782,261
<b>SAFETY, SECURITY AND SITES</b>			
Site Improvements	\$ 0	\$ 2,308,867	\$ 2,308,867
Central Annex	0	2,308,330	2,308,330
Monterey Avenue Improvements	960,849	6,928,390	6,948,114
Security Cameras and Emergency Phones	0	128,745	196,295
South Parking Lot	0	1,004,767	1,004,767
Western Parking Lot	0	2,831,387	2,831,387
Subtotal	\$ 960,849	\$ 15,510,486	\$ 15,597,760
<b>OTHER</b>			
Planning & Program Management	2,866,179	23,503,325	26,372,965
Subtotal	\$ 2,866,179	\$ 23,503,325	\$ 26,372,965
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 54,637,832</b>	<b>\$ 298,363,241</b>	<b>\$ 384,063,043</b>



## STAY IN TOUCH

The Citizens' Oversight Committee meets quarterly to review Measure B projects and progress. All meetings are open to the public and are held at 3:30 p.m. in the Cravens Student Services Center, Multi-Purpose Room on the Palm Desert Campus at 43-500 Monterey Ave., Palm Desert, CA 92260.

For more information on Measure B, the Facilities Master Plan, Citizens Oversight Committee agendas and meeting minutes, go to the COD Bond Website at [www.bond.collegeofthedesert.edu](http://www.bond.collegeofthedesert.edu) or call the College at (760) 773-2511.

### UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

March 10, 2015, 3:30 p.m.

June 9, 2015, 3:30 p.m.

September 8, 2015, 3:30 p.m.

Cravens Student Services Center  
Multi-Purpose Room

2013-2014

### DESERT COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Becky Broughton • Mary Jane Sanchez-Fulton  
Michael O'Neill • Bonnie Stefan, Ed.D. • Aurora Wilson  
Eleanor Campbell, *Student Trustee*

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Joel L. Kinnamon, Ed.D.  
*College Superintendent/President*



43500 Monterey Ave., Palm Desert, CA 92260

