

The Hon. Gray Davis
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Oxnard, CA 93030
Jan. 2, 2000

Dear Governor Davis:

Recently you announced a setback for Ventura County's first public college tying it to a schedule with Stockton. There are many reasons our college should have a top priority and certainly not connected to just a relationship with a former State Mental Hospital.

Ventura County and San Mateo County are the largest urban counties without a public college or university. However, San Mateo has public colleges and universities much closer to the centers of population than Ventura County. San Jose State College is 51 miles from San Francisco. San Francisco State is about 1 mile from San Mateo County where 280 comes into Hwy 1. San Luis Obispo State University is 136 miles from the City of Ventura and about 60 or 65 miles from Northridge State College. Everyone including our large minority and low income population is disadvantaged by the long commute.

A more important reason for Ventura County to have priority is that for many years as you, I, and others know that the Offshore Oil revenues funded capital improvements for the Universities and State Colleges. We had all the problems and none of the benefits. Those campuses we funded have built up powerful supporters who do not want to share State funding with our campus. It is time that we had our fair share. Hope you will reconsider our funding this year.

It is a beautiful campus. Back in 1967 or 68 while I was chairman of the Board of Trustees of Camarillo State Hospital we recommended that the Ventura State College campus be at the State Hospital as we were losing patients and we already had a strong relationship with UCLA. The State chose a Somis site instead which was later dropped at the suggestion of Ventura County Assemblyman J. K. Mac Donald. His successor Charles Imbrecht was also opposed to public colleges and universities.

Sincerely,


Jane M. Tolmach