



CITY OF OXNARD

MEMORANDUM

August 10, 1973

*Ask Advisory
to coordinate
community support*

To: Stephen A. Cook, Acting City Manager

From: Bob Brown, Administrative Assistant II

SUBJECT: Oxnard College

The following information is provided as a status report on the City's efforts to expedite the development of the Oxnard College.

Background

In 1968, the College District purchased a 118 acre site in southeast Oxnard for the development of its third campus. In 1970, an \$18.6 million bond election was held which would have provided \$12.6 million for the construction of an Oxnard College; this bond election failed. In 1972, a \$1.5 million bond election was held which would have provided funds for site development of the Oxnard College; this election also failed. Because of the failure of the more recent bond election, the District Trustees decided to undertake new building projects on a "pay as you go" basis through a financial program utilizing the Stiern Tax. Under this program, the District submits a list of capital projects to the state with documentation as to the need for each project. The state, based upon various criteria, then approves those projects which are of highest priority and places funds meeting approximately 50 percent of the project costs in the Governor's Budget for allocation to the District; the District raises the matching 50 percent by levying a special tax (Stiern Tax) which does not require voter approval. This financial program is now being used to finance new classroom buildings at Moorpark College, and it is proposed to be used for a new classroom building for Ventura College and for site preparation of the Oxnard College.

Recent City Effort

On July 10, 1973, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 5060 urging the Ventura County Community College District Board of Trustees to reaffirm its pledge to construct a college facility in Oxnard at the earliest possible date. The City Council directed Mayor Tolmach to present this resolution to the Board of Trustees.

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On July 17, 1973, Mayor Tolmach presented this resolution to the Board along with supporting testimony regarding the need for an Oxnard College. Upon receiving these recommendations, the Board explained some of the financial limitations which prevent the immediate development of the Oxnard College and also directed the District Superintendent to meet with Oxnard officials to further discuss this subject.

On July 31, 1973, City staff met with District staff and Dr. William Simpson, Board member, to discuss the Oxnard College. During this meeting, City staff presented information indicating that off-site utilities could be provided to the southwest corner of the College site at no cost to the District; this information was provided in hopes the District might, using temporary or portable buildings, establish a College program on the site in the near future. District staff responded that it is financially unrealistic to consider the initiation of site development on the 118 acre parcel until FY 1974-75. District staff also reviewed the Ventura College satellite program which the District plans to establish in Oxnard this fall.

On August 7, 1973, a representative from the City Manager's Office attended the District Board meeting to reiterate the City's request for a reaffirmation of the Board's previous commitments to construct the Oxnard College. Although the Board did not directly respond to this presentation, several actions which it took during that meeting related to the City's specific recommendations. Rather than reaffirm its commitment to establish an Oxnard College, the Board approved a calendar for the development of a "2000 A.D." Master Plan. The purpose of this Master Plan is to assess the District's future facility needs and to determine what new facilities will be needed to meet these needs.

The implication of this action as it relates to the Oxnard College is that there may or may not be a need and justification for an Oxnard College; one of the purposes of the Master Plan study will be to resolve this question. In light of this implication, the Board's action must be viewed as at least a temporary setback to the City's effort to obtain the Board's recommitment to the Oxnard College.

After approving the calendar for the completion of a Master Plan, the Board tabled action on the initiation of the new building at Ventura College. The expressed reason for this delay was the desire of the Board to obtain additional information regarding the need and justification for the facility; it was not actually stated that the new building will be deferred until the completion of the Master Plan next April.

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On a third matter relating to the City's recommendations, the Board approved the expansion of the Ventura College satellite program in Oxnard this fall. According to tentative plans, this program will be centered at the beauty college building on the southeast corner of 8th and "B" Streets, with classes also being held at various locations within the City.

Future City Efforts

Since the site development of Oxnard College is a State approved project, and since the Board of Trustees has decided to levy a Stiern Tax in FY 1973-74, the District could probably begin this project this fiscal year if the Ventura College building is deferred. To date, the majority of the Board has expressed no interest in implementing this approach, and it is unlikely that any change of position can be anticipated in light of the Board's action on the Master Plan study project. Of even more immediate concern is the "Ten Year Facilities Plan" which the District must submit to the State by December 1 of this year. If the Oxnard College site development project does not receive a high priority in this Plan, the project will not receive state funding and will undoubtedly be delayed for at least another year even if the completed Master Plan confirms the need and justification for the Oxnard College.

There is an apparent conflict between the schedules for this "Ten Year Facilities Plan" and the Master Plan; that is, since the Master Plan will not be completed until next April, it is difficult to understand how the District will be able to establish its new building priorities by December 1. City staff has not yet discussed this apparent conflict with District staff.

The City Council's position on this matter is very clear to the Board of Trustees and District staff. Therefore, additional progress in expediting the development of Oxnard College will likely depend upon broad community support for the project and an effective program for expressing this support to the Board.



Bob Brown, Administrative Assistant II

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