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COUNTY OF VENTURA**

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VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93003

*Frank Jewett*

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FRANKLIN R. JEWETT  
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT  
(805) 642-0226  
(805) 485-3516

November 20, 1973

Laurel E. Everett, President  
Ventura County Junior College  
Board of Trustees  
Ventura, CA. 93003

Dear Mrs. Everett,

At a meeting of the Oxnard Advisory Committee on Monday evening November 12th, I, in response to a question, gave my views on an Oxnard Campus for the Junior College District. You, too, had asked by a phone call, my recollection of this issue during my involvement with the Junior College District. Your call was made prior to another earlier public meeting in Oxnard, and I believe you referred to some of my remarks made during our phone conversation at this public meeting.

I would like to provide a complete statement of my recollection of promises implied or categorically made during my involvement for what value they may have.

The Ventura Union High School District, who provided the Ventura Junior College serving the students from the high schools of the County, named a Committee of 100 in 1960 to recommend a procedure to meet the State mandate that all such Districts be a part of a Junior College District. I was elected by the Committee to serve as Chairman and our recommendation was for a Countywide District.

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The possibility for two Districts was weighed and the school people of Oxnard expressed their views. A Committee of 25, from the original 100, pursued the objective of a Countywide Junior College District, and the voters of the County approved the necessary bonds to purchase Ventura College and elect trustees. I was one of those trustees, and was the Chairman during my tenure in office.

One of the first major problems was to provide for all those who wished to enroll in a County Junior College. In those years Ventura was considered the fastest growing County in the fastest growing State in the Nation. The eastern portion of Ventura County was where much of the growth was occurring. Because of this growth and the distance from the Ventura campus, a site was selected and the Moorpark College designed to serve the eastern portion of the County. Moorpark received first priority because of need, however, when presenting the bond proposal and justifying the decision, an Oxnard campus was promised when that need could be demonstrated.

Following my Board service, I assisted the District in locating a site for an Oxnard campus. Dr. Simpson and Phil McConnell were on the original Board and are still serving. The promises I, and other Board members, made when discussing the Moorpark Bond issue are clearly an obligation that has been repudiated by the present Board.

During the intervening years, the campus at Ventura has seen additional facilities added as has Moorpark. True, a bond issue failed that was for an Oxnard campus and additions to Ventura and Moorpark, but monies have been poured into additions to Ventura and Moorpark that, in my opinion, could have been used at Oxnard. Ventura's enrollment far exceeds its original design capacity, many coming from Oxnard. The congestion of traffic and parking are creating problems for both students and citizens in the adjacent urban areas.

There is, of course, the balance of cost for facilities and administration with enrollment, but I submit that the enrollment is available to an Oxnard campus. The convenience of



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access, the relief on Ventura, and possibly Moorpark, and the community interest, is sufficient for the Board of Trustees to fulfill the promises made and start construction of the Oxnard Campus.

Yours truly,

Franklin R. Jewett  
Supervisor, First District

FRJ:mo

cc: Mr. Phillip McConnell  
Dr. William Simpson  
Mr. Robert Addison  
Mr. Richard Eichman