

SUPPORT OXNARD COLLEGE COMMITTEE

Position Paper #1

The Support Oxnard College Committee strongly urges the Ventura County Community College District Board of Trustees to provide full funding for the furnishing of the Learning Resources Center and the general classroom building, as well as the construction of physical education facilities at Oxnard College.

JUSTIFICATION:

1. Oxnard, the largest city in the VCCCD, has historically given full support to the following:
 - 1962 - Initial formation of the College District and \$1.7 million Bond Issue. In return for its support Oxnard was promised equitable treatment by Board of Trustees including construction of a college in Oxnard.
 - 1965 - Oxnard residents supported a \$7.9 million Bond to construct Moorpark College and were assured of a third campus site in Oxnard by the Board.
 - 1972 - Bond election for Oxnard College construction failed. Board of Trustees, despite earlier promises to use Stiern tax monies for construction if Bond issue failed, declined to recognize prior commitments to provide a full campus in Oxnard and utilized Stiern tax monies for other purposes.
2. Oxnard College was started on a shoestring budget in storefront classrooms, unlike Ventura and Moorpark which have complete campus facilities. There is a need for a full campus development to make Oxnard a strong, independent college.
3. The lack of adequate facilities for full-time students has resulted in over 50% of Oxnard area students traveling to Ventura and Moorpark to obtain needed programs. A full campus and educational program in Oxnard would eliminate unnecessary transportation and other costs for the nearly 10,000 students residing in the Oxnard College service area.
4. The Oxnard area produces the greatest number of students in the District. Potentially, Oxnard College with full campus development, could enjoy the highest enrollment in the District. In only three years Oxnard College has reached an enrollment of over 5,300 students. Oxnard College is the only college in the district to show a pattern of steady growth since 1974.

Enrollment Data

	Moorpark	Ventura	Oxnard
Fall 1974	10,475	14,274	-0-
Fall 1975	10,902	14,988	3,945
Spring 1976	10,891	12,723	4,585
Fall 1976	9,323	13,296	4,156
Spring 1977	9,397	12,316	4,601
Fall 1977	9,266	13,866	4,412
Spring 1978	9,529	12,657	5,293

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5. There has been a continuing disregard for financial equity for Oxnard College. The Oxnard area has consistently had the highest assessed valuation and contributed the greatest amount of property tax dollars to finance District operations than any other area in the County. Despite its large financial contribution, Oxnard has not received a fair share return to finance Oxnard College. During its first three years of operation, Oxnard College has received, on the average, 10% fewer dollars for its operations than local Oxnard taxpayers have paid to the District. This financial inequity must stop.
6. Would Ventura and Moorpark Colleges be able to continue in the same fashion as now if the Oxnard-Port Hueneme-Camarillo areas seceded from the college district with their hefty taxing base and formed their own district around Oxnard College?
7. Oxnard College now has an outstanding opportunity to receive State assistance in the amount of \$1.8 million earmarked to finance the construction of needed physical education facilities. The required local match of \$1.2 million can be provided through use of State surplus funds made available from SB 154. This, in effect, means the entire construction program essential to Oxnard College can be realized entirely from State funds.
8. The City of Oxnard strongly supports Oxnard College and has, and will continue to, expend funds to provide utility extensions, streets, and other improvements to serve the Oxnard College site.
9. Through the acquisition of 80 acres, adjacent to the Oxnard College site, a regional park facility is being planned and developed in a unique manner to facilitate joint sharing of park and college facilities. This is a cooperative effort between the College, the City of Oxnard, and the County of Ventura.
10. Many students at Oxnard College are working people desiring to re-establish their academic pursuits to improve their skill levels and enhance their personal advancement. For these people a nearby, convenient college with complete academic and occupational training opportunities is the only realistic alternative which will meet their needs and not interfere with their regular jobs.
11. Of crucial importance is the recognition that the operation of a complete campus facility in Oxnard has not and will not affect property taxes for Ventura County taxpayers. There will be no increased tax burden to support Oxnard College -- and that support is needed now.