

RESOLUTION NO. 6111

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXNARD DIRECTING THE ATTENTION OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR AND THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO THE CRITICAL NEED FOR A COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE OXNARD-PORT HUENEME AREA AND TO THE FAILURE OF THE VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT TO RESPOND TO THIS NEED

WHEREAS, in 1962, citizens of Ventura County approved the formation of a community college district and the sale of bonds for the acquisition of Ventura College from the Ventura High School District; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, the Ventura County Community College District moved forward in responding to the community college needs of the eastern portion of Ventura County by acquiring a 138 acre site in the Moorpark area; in 1965, County voters approved a bond issue which allowed development of the first phase of Moorpark College on this site; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, the Community College District made a commitment to extend its educational program into the Oxnard-Port Hueneme area by purchasing a 118 acre site in the southeastern section of the community and by planning to open a facility at this location for instruction in 1973; and

WHEREAS, despite the failure of a bond election early in 1970 which would have provided development funds for Oxnard College and several other District projects, the Board expressed its intent to meet its responsibility to residents of the Oxnard-Port Hueneme area by assigning Oxnard College site development top priority in its Ten Year Facilities Plan in 1970 and again in 1971; and

WHEREAS, despite the fact that local residents obviously favored a community college development program financed by State tax monies and matching State funds rather than a bond issue, the Ventura County Community College Board held a poorly planned and executed bond election in 1972 to raise funds for Oxnard College site preparation, a new building at Moorpark College, and working drawings for a new Ventura College building; and

WHEREAS, following the defeat of the ill-conceived 1972 bond election, the Board decided to respond to the will of local voters and proceed with development of additional District facilities by utilizing the financial program provided by the Stiern Bill; and

WHEREAS, since that decision, the Board has moved forward in using the Stiern Bill financial program to build two new classroom buildings at Moorpark College and has budgeted funds this year to construct a new building at Ventura College; and

WHEREAS, in approving these new classroom buildings for the Moorpark and Ventura campuses, the Board has downgraded, if not eliminated, the Oxnard College project and, thereby, clearly reneged on its responsibility and commitment to respond to the community college needs of the Oxnard-Port Hueneme area; and

WHEREAS, the continued expansion of facilities and programs at the Moorpark and Ventura Colleges further reduces the chances for development of the needed college in the Oxnard-Port Hueneme area not only because of its demand upon District construction and operating funds, but also because the overbuilding of the two existing campuses will make it more difficult for the Oxnard-Port Hueneme campus to qualify for matching State funds in light of the State's new "occupancy standards"; and

WHEREAS, on October 16, 1973, the Board adopted a new Ten Year Facilities Plan which ranks the phased development of Oxnard College as its highest priority, but approved this plan on an "interim" basis pending the completion of a "2000 A.D. Master Plan" study which has been initiated to determine the need and financial feasibility of developing a third campus in Oxnard; and

WHEREAS, in light of the District's failure to meet its past commitments to residents of the Oxnard-Port Hueneme area, and in light of the fact that the new building projects at the other two campuses were not subjected to prolonged and delaying scrutiny prior to their approval, the City Council can only conclude that the "2000 A.D. Master Plan" study is one more device which is being used to further postpone or eliminate the much needed Oxnard College project; and

WHEREAS, the refusal of the Ventura County Community College Board of Trustees to initiate the Oxnard-Port Hueneme College project while continuing to expand other District facilities which do not meet the needs of the Oxnard-Port Hueneme area is not only an affront to the "community" college concept which has been so very successful in California, but is also flagrantly depriving residents of this area of their rights to obtain needed education and training; and

WHEREAS, this blatant lack of concern for the needs of a large number of residents within the District is having far reaching economic and social effects upon the Oxnard community since the lack of adequate educational facilities is preventing many individuals, especially those who are economically disadvantaged, from obtaining the skills necessary to become self-fulfilled and productive members of the community; and

WHEREAS, members of the City Council and a great number of local citizens find the Ventura County Community College District Board's lack of response to Oxnard needs especially puzzling since the Oxnard area is the largest, fastest growing community within the District and since its residents contribute more tax dollars to support community college programs than any other community within the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Oxnard does hereby direct the attention of the Office of the Chancellor and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges to the critical need for a community college in the Oxnard -Port Hueneme area and to the failure of the Ventura County Community College District to respond to this need.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council requests all possible assistance from the Governing Board and Chancellor's Office in requiring the Ventura County Community College District to meet its responsibility to all residents within the District, including those of the Oxnard-Port Hueneme area.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 6 TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1973.

AYES: Councilmen Jewell, Kato, Miller, Sanchez, Tolmach

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Jane M. Tolmach  
JANE M. TOLMACH  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

Mildred W. Foster  
MILDRED W. FOSTER  
CITY CLERK