



OXNARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 31, 1973

TO: Members of the Oxnard Advisory Committee and Others
Interested in the Oxnard College Issue

FROM: Delton Lee Johnson, Advisory Committee President

SUBJECT: Oxnard College

Enclosed is an information sheet which has been compiled from various sources. You will notice that the sheet contains much factual data as well as some statements which could best be described as opinion. Please use this sheet as you see fit.

Delton Lee Johnson
Delton Lee Johnson
President *ni*

DLJ:mi
Enclosure

DATES AND COMMENTS

- 1/16/62 - Election held to form College District, select the initial Board, and pass a \$6,716,000 bond issue to purchase Ventura College from the Ventura High School District.

For several years prior to the formation of the District it was recognized that there was need for a college "south of the river". There was opposition in Oxnard to joining the county-wide district, because of the fear that Oxnard would never get equitable treatment.

- 2/6/62 - College District Board began functioning.
- 7/1/62 - College District Board assumed full responsibility for Ventura College. (V.C. day enrollment approximately 2100)

There was early discussion of overall county needs, with some pressure for proceeding with an Oxnard College. But the Board decided that Moorpark should have the second college, and Oxnard would have the third. A plan was developed for five colleges, and the Supt. (Dr. Ed Rowins) urged the Board to limit the V.C. day enrollment capacity to 3,500.

MOORPARK COLLEGE

- 12/23/63 - Closure of site purchase for Moorpark College, 134 acres, total cost \$298,006.68.
- 3/2/65 - Election held to pass \$7,900,000 bond issue to construct first phase of M.C. Main opposition was from V.C. faculty and Taxpayers Assn. Election carried in Oxnard, and in total county, but not in Ventura.

Mrs. Everett was Chairmain of Citizens Advisory Committee which helped the District in initial planning for M.C. She and others from the Moorpark area praised the Oxnard support, and promised their support to Oxnard for third campus.

- 8/24/65 - Contract awarded for initial M.C. site work.

Sept. '67 Moorpark College classes began.

OXNARD COLLEGE

- 8/6/68 - Closure of Oxnard College site purchase, 118.75 acres, total cost \$1,063,062.

The Board was unanimous in its purchase of the Oxnard site, and in plans for the first phase of Oxnard College to open in Sept. 1973.

1970 no bond

3/24/70 - Bond election failed:

Oxnard College, 1st phase	\$12,600,000	
M.C. Humanities Bldg.	5,500,000	
V.C. small projects	400,000	
District Center	100,000	
Total	\$18,600,000	

YES votes as follows: Fillmore 12.3%, Moorpark 32.5%, Ojai 21.9%, Hueneme 46.5%, Mesa 22.6%, Oxnard 43.9%, Pleasant Valley 25.7%, Rio 35.6%, Somis 27.9%, Timber 29.3%, Valley Oaks 25.8%, Briggs, 11.3%, Santa Paula 16.6%, Simi 26.6%, Ventura 22.5%.

Immediately prior to the bond election, there was much misrepresentation of facts, and strong political opposition. The chief opposition was from the V.C. faculty and the Taxpayers Assn. The V.C. faculty and administration convinced the Grand Jury that V.C. had excess unused classroom space, and the Grand Jury opposed the bond election. Within a month after the election failed the V.C. administration complained to the Board of critical classroom shortages.

Since the 1970 bond election did not carry in Oxnard (66.6% required) the opponents of Oxnard College claimed that Oxnard neither deserved nor wanted a college.

12/1/70 - The Oxnard priorities were revised downward, and the revised Ten-Year Construction Plan scheduled the first phase of Oxnard College to open in Sept. 1976.

6/6/72 - Bond election failed:

M.C. Classroom Bldg.	\$ 987,225	(since expanded to two buildings now under construction)
Working drawings for V.C. classroom bldg.	14,935	(now budgeted for construction)
O.C. site preparation, Phase I	540,856	(earthwork and utilities)
Total	\$1,550,000	(rounded total)

Matching state funds were available for the three projects. The District could have used Stiern Bill taxing authority for the projects, but voted (4 to 1) to try the Bond election, even though there was doubt it would pass. All Board members promised that they would use the Stiern tax if the bond issue failed, and County newspapers reported the Trustee promises.

After the bond election failed the Trustees voted (4 to 1) to keep their promises for the V.C. and M.C. projects, but refused to proceed with the O.C. project. The chief reason given (the opposition was led by Trustee Stewart, joined by Everett, McConnell, and Addison) was that since the bond election had not carried in Oxnard, then Oxnard did not deserve or want a college.

However, the favorable vote on the Bond election was higher in Oxnard than in Ventura or Moorpark.

- 11/1/72 - Oxnard priorities revised downward, with first phase of Oxnard College scheduled to open in 1977. In advancing the M.C. and V.C. priorities, Dr. Sheffield promised that Oxnard could depend upon him to protect the Oxnard interests, and that he was a strong advocate for Oxnard College.

Since July 1971 the District has continued to add courses, programs, and facilities at V.C. and M.C., overexpending District incomes, resulting in deficit financing and reduction of reserves. As soon as operating expenses were large enough to require the maximum legal taxes, suggestions were made that the District could not support a third campus, and that the Oxnard campus should be sold (the Oxnard site would supply approximately \$1,000,000 for additional expansion at V.C. and M.C.).

- 8/21/73 - Because of political pressure from an Oxnard delegation the Board unanimously passed the following motion: "That the administration be directed to prepare a plan for development of an Oxnard educational facility, including construction and operation, giving priority to the development of Oxnard College on the site which was purchased for that purpose."

Later at the same meeting the Board decided (4 to 1) "To include the third college construction priorities in the 1973-74 Facilities Plan on only an interim basis until the comprehensive 2000 A.D. Master Plan can be reviewed and approved by the Board."

Unfortunately, since that meeting the Administration and Board have decided that any plan for an Oxnard College must await the completion and approval of the 2000 A.D. Master Plan.

The 2000 A.D. Master Plan, which is scheduled for first Board review 19 Feb 1974 and final Board approval 2 Apr 1974, is based upon questions and criteria that seem biased against Oxnard. The makeup of the 2000 A.D. Study Committee (Dr. Sheffield with three from Ventura College and three from Moorpark College) does not justify optimism.

- 10/16/73 - Oxnard priorities revised downward, with first phase of Oxnard College scheduled (on interim basis*) to open in 1978.

(4 to 1)

Board approved 10-Year Construction Plan as recommended by the Administration. The Board refused to approve the following amending motions.

(1) Delay the V.C. classroom building (budgeted but not yet contracted) (defeated 3 to 2)

(2) Abandon the 2000 A.D. Master Plan and again instruct the administration to prepare a plan for development of O.C. (motion not seconded)

* Note: Although Oxnard College projects received high priority in the 10 Year Construction Plan, the Board adopted these priorities on only an "interim" basis pending the results of the 2000 A.D. Master Plan.

(3) Give Oxnard assurance that the projects listed in the 10-Year Construction Plan will be accomplished in the order given (motion not seconded)

(4) Reduce the M.C. Performing Arts Building priority from its new 6th position to its former 16th position in the 10-Year Plan (motion not seconded)