

July 24, 1973

*Opinion*

Board of Trustees  
Ventura County Community College District  
71 Day Road  
Ventura, CA 93003

Honorable Board Members:

On behalf of the City Council, I wish to thank you for giving City representatives the opportunity to present some of our views regarding the Oxnard College during your meeting on July 17, 1973.

Members of the City Council and the Oxnard community will be anxiously awaiting your formal response to our recommendations on this matter as enumerated in Resolution No. 6050 which was presented to your Board. We will also be looking forward to the results of the discussions with our City staff which Dr. Sheffield will be initiating as a result of your directive to him last Tuesday. We concur in your belief that such discussions should help to improve our understanding of the complex Oxnard College issue.

We realize that many of the comments made by District officials during the July 17 meeting were intended to convey to the Oxnard delegation that it is financially impractical to begin Phase I of the Oxnard College project during FY 1973-74. Despite these comments, we remain confident that some financial program can be developed which can get this much-needed college facility underway this year. This belief is based upon several factors. For example, the assertion that there are no capital outlay funds available for the Oxnard College for FY 1973-74 assumes that the District will proceed with the building at Ventura College; as we pointed out to the Board on July 17, we strongly believe that further construction at the two existing campuses should be postponed until after the initiation of the Oxnard College. The postponement of the new Ventura College building will also, of course, favorably affect District

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utilization figures and, thereby, improve the chances for State funding for the balance of the Oxnard College project. Another factor which has not yet been fully considered is the impact which funds resulting from SB6 may have upon the District's financial program. Based upon the comments made by Dr. Sheffield last Tuesday, it seems possible that SB6 monies might well allow an acceleration of the Oxnard College development schedule, and possibly provide needed operating revenues as well.

Our purpose in reviewing the above factors is to indicate our belief that the District has not yet fully explored all alternatives which might expedite the development of the Oxnard College. In light of the obvious need for a college facility which offers a full program of vocational training and transfer education to residents of the Oxnard-Port Hueneme area, we believe Board members should immediately undertake a careful examination of these alternatives.

Members of the City Council believe that the early development of an Oxnard College will help to respond to many of the problems now being experienced in our area. Therefore, we fully intend to meet our responsibility to local citizens by continuing our efforts to move the project forward at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,

Jane M. Tolmach  
Mayor

JMT:mi