

BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

A 21ST CENTURY VISION



Blueprint for the Future: A Plan to Serve Our Communities for the Next 50 Years

At College of the Desert, we are building to meet the future educational needs of the Coachella Valley.

This project began in March 2004 when voters overwhelmingly approved Measure B, a \$346.5 million bond issue to pay for:

- Renovation of the main campus in Palm Desert, originally constructed in the early 1960s
- Construction of several new facilities on the main campus
- Acquisition of permanent sites for satellite campuses in the East and West Valley areas

The original campus was completed in 1962, nearly 50 years ago. A second phase, including what is now the Hilb Student Center (the former college library) and the Wright Gymnasium, was finished in 1968.

In 1996, COD teamed with the City of Palm Desert and the County of Riverside to create a multi-agency library on campus. In 1999, the State provided funds to complete two new buildings – Math and Social Sciences – that were part of the original master plan. The Measure B expansion going



on now is designed to meet the needs of our citizens for the next 50 years, all the way to the year 2065. Planning ahead is prudent, despite unforeseen economic challenges that have come into play in the past two years. In our initial planning, as well as in subsequent plan revisions, we've been focused on energy conservation – building "smart" facilities that incorporate the latest energy-saving technology and we've applied for LEED silver certification for two of our recently constructed projects.

In addition, we are working closely with our communities so that the acquisition of new sites and expansion of existing facilities answers the present and future needs of the citizens in Coachella Valley. For instance, at the proposed West Valley Campus, we envision a self-sustaining system that will produce energy needs for the entire campus and even generate enough electricity to sell the surplus power, creating a revenue stream. We're working with cities in the West Valley (Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs) to add programs to the curriculum that will train workers for new jobs in the "green" energy field.

In the East Valley, a new permanent site for what is now the Eastern Valley Center in Indio is in the planning stages. Plans will be drawn for a multi-story building in Old Town Indio. In addition to aiding in the city's downtown redevelopment efforts, the planners envision retail and commercial space on the ground floor that would not only provide services to faculty, staff and students there – but also provide the college with a revenue stream. At the Eastern Valley Campus in Mecca-Thermal, a modular village opened in 2009 to serve students there. COD foresees multiple five-year plans with incremental growth linked to new residential and commercial development in the area.

In short, we are meeting the present and future challenges by thinking and planning ahead.

As always, we welcome input from the public. Our Facilities Master Plan Committee meets monthly at COD to update the campus and the public on the bond projects that are either under construction or in the planning stages. You can also visit our website for updates: www.collegeofthedesert.edu

Facing the Current Economic Challenge

Over the past two years, College of the Desert has experienced significant cuts in funding because of unprecedented state budget deficits. California institutions of education, from kindergarten all the way up to graduate programs at CSU and UC, are experiencing enormous shortfalls in funding which have impacted staff, students and services.

At the same time, College of the Desert (and many other colleges around the state) are building and expanding for the future. We are often asked how we can continue to do both. Here are some specific questions that are frequently asked about the expansion program funded by Measure B.

Q. How can you afford to build and expand when your budget has been cut so drastically?

A. The construction and land acquisition projects are not funded by the state nor are any related expenditures coming out of our general fund. Voters looked at the needs of the community and agreed to increase property taxes to fund a comprehensive renovation and reconstruction of its local college.

Q. Can the bond money be used to offset the general fund deficits brought on by cuts in state funding?

A. No. By law, the bond proceeds can only be used for specific acquisitions of land and property and construction related to renovating and expanding the college. A volunteer committee of citizens oversees the spending and produces an annual report (on our website). The spending is audited by a CPA firm.

Q. With money so tight, would it be prudent to slow down the expansion now and ramp up when the economy improves?

A. Ironically, the current recession has produced a bonus in some ways – for example, the nearly completed Cravens Student Services Center was originally projected to cost about \$23 million. But with building costs at their lowest level in many years due to the slow-down in construction, bids were extremely competitive. The actual costs will come in at about \$17 million, a savings of \$6 million. We're saving money by building now.

In addition, certain penalties accrue if we fail to complete the bond-approved projects within a certain length of time. And there is an extremely long approval process, so if we stopped building now it would take much longer to get back up to speed; new buildings would not be ready when they were needed.

Q. That means the money comes from two separate funds and there is no relation between the two?

A. Yes, that's correct. Obviously, there may be a future point at which the two intersect. If the state continues to cut the education budget we could face the prospect of completing a building for which there is no operational budget. Right now, the buildings that are in progress are designed to replace or consolidate existing facilities, so it's a matter of transferring employees and current operating budgets to new sites on campus. However, unless the state solves its budget deficit problems in the next few years, we will have to reevaluate the current expansion process. We are undergoing a new comprehensive educational master plan study now – to determine what our building priorities ought to be through 2015.



For more information about Measure B, see our website or contact the Office of Business Affairs, (760) 773-2511.



2004

Voters Approve \$346.5 Million Bond Issue

Planning and Approval Phases Begin

A timeline shows progress and planned future development, beginning with passage of Measure B in 2004 through the contemplated completion of all projects by the year 2015. The timeline is subject to change as a new comprehensive educational master plan is being developed. It will assess the emerging needs of our communities given economic conditions that have changed since the original planning process began.



2005



2006



\$36 Million Infrastructure Project Begins

2007



2008



\$13 Million Central Plant Completed

\$5.6 Million Dining Facility Renovation Begins

\$2.5 Million Interim East Valley Campus

2009



\$16 Million Public Safety Academy Opens

\$11 Million Barker Nursing Complex Opens

\$2.8 Million Alumni Centre Opens

2010



\$4.3 Million Business Building Renovation Completed

\$22 Million Cravens Student Services Center Opens

2011

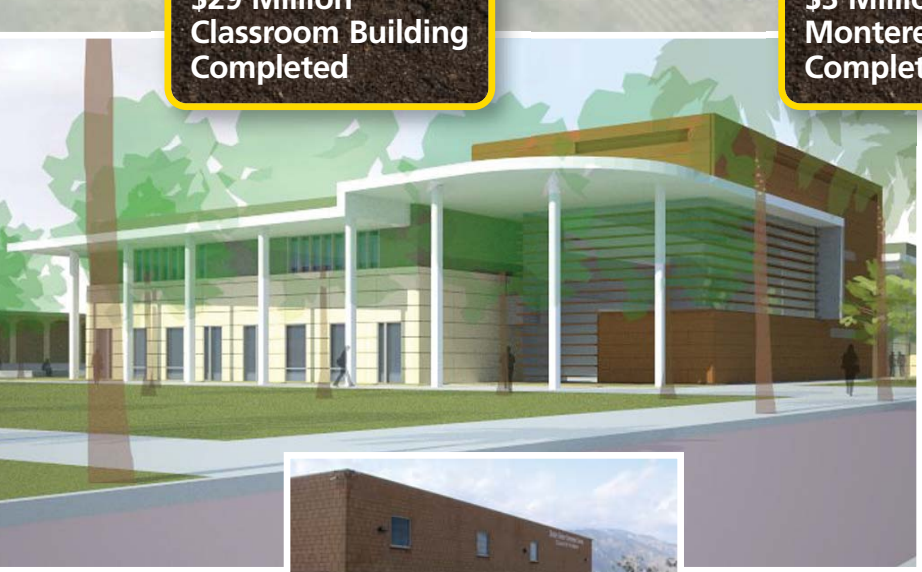


\$6 Million Nursing Building Renovation Completed

2012



\$29 Million Classroom Building Completed



2013



\$25 Million Communication Building Completed

\$3 Million Monterey Entrance Completed



2014



\$39 Million Old Library Renovation Completed



2015

\$59 Million EVC Indio Completed

\$40 Million West Valley Campus to Open

\$12 Million Gymnasium Renovation Completed

All Other Projects to be Completed*
*For a comprehensive list of all Measure B bond projects, visit the web at codbond.eispro.com