Citizens Bond Oversight Committee Report 2010-11

In March 2002, the Sonoma County Junior College District received voter approval of a $251.7 million bond measure to fund capital projects. Commonly referred to as Measure A, these funds can only be spent on projects that equip, repair, renovate, and construct facilities at SRJC.

In September 2002, the first Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) was convened to provide legally mandated oversight of bond measure funds as the funds are spent on projects to improve the Sonoma County Junior College District (SCJCD). Minutes of all committee proceedings are a matter of public record and may be accessed on the College Web site at www.santarosa.edu (click on “Committees and Councils” under the key link “Administration”).

The CBOC represents broad geographic and civic perspectives. The 2010-11 committee members include: Ms. Donna Beels, Mr. Jonathan Coe, Mr. Alex Klein, Mr. Fred Levin, Mr. John Pearson, Ms. Amanda Swan, and Mr. Phil Talamantes.

It is important for district taxpayers and all interested citizens to be assured that public funds are being appropriately expended to improve the college’s buildings and instructional equipment. Annual expenditure and performance audits conducted since the beginning of Measure A indicate that all funds have been appropriately expended for purposes authorized by the voters. Having built the Zumwalt Parking Pavilion, the Doyle and Mahoney Libraries, the Bertolini Student Center, the Phase II construction at the Petaluma Campus, the Shone Farm Equestrian Center, the synthetic turf sports complex, and several other renovations, including those at Plover Hall and Race Hall, the District is moving toward the end of its major bond-funded projects. The last major project is the construction of the new B. Robert Burdo Culinary Arts Center on Mendocino Avenue, which is “on schedule” for completion in December 2011. As result of a legal settlement, all 77 of the defective variable controllers at Race Hall will be replaced during summer 2011.

Regarding the Shone Farm Reservoir, whose construction will be partly funded with the help of the Town of Windsor, the District received a conditional waiver of waste water discharge requirements from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Planning discussions with the Town of Windsor continue. In addition to these named projects, numerous other small infrastructure projects have been completed across the District.

The Oversight Committee continues to exercise its primary responsibility of ensuring that bond expenditures meet the provisions and requirements of Measure A and of Proposition 39 and SCJCD’s Board of Trustees policies and procedures governing the committee’s operations. Examples of the specific oversight the committee provided in 2010-11 include:

✔ Reviewed financial and performance audits performed by external auditors

✔ Reviewed facilities plans and projects

✔ Received Board of Trustees reports that includes all Measure A-related updates

✔ Monitored facilities improvements to meet health, safety, accessibility, and instructional standards