

NEWS RELEASE

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COLLEGE OF MARIN BOARD APPROVES \$249.5 MILLION BOND

KENTFIELD, Calif., July 22, 2004—For the first time since 1968, College of Marin will turn to local voters to help it prepare students for jobs and four-year colleges, maintain facilities and improve safety at the College.

The College's Board of Trustees approved a resolution Tuesday night to place a \$249.5 million general obligation bond on the November, 2004 ballot. The bond will enable the College to restore the physical condition of its aging campus and meet modern education standards. If passed by voters, "The College of Marin Facility Maintenance, Job Training, and Safety Measure" will assess \$19 per \$100,000 assessed property tax value and enable the College to:

- Modernize science labs, classrooms, libraries;
- Provide modern computer technology;
- Upgrade fire safety, campus security, disabled access, energy conservation systems and electrical wiring for computer technology; and
- Repairing, constructing, acquiring, and/or equipping classrooms, labs, sites and facilities

"The stakes are clear. Without this bond, we may be forced to cut program and portions of our operational budget in order to pay for increased maintenance and regulatory costs," says Wanden Treanor. "Our facilities are in worse shape than 90 percent of all California community colleges and must be repaired if we are to adequately serve the community. Additionally, the community has told us that it supports this bond to meet our critical facility and technology needs."

Kerry Mazzoni, former California secretary of education and a Marin resident, spoke in favor of the bond. Noting that budget cuts and higher UC admissions requirements have placed increased responsibility on California's community colleges "whether they are ready for it or not," Mazzoni said, "This bond will return vibrancy to College of Marin's academic endeavors at a time when California's students face diminishing opportunities for higher education."

Both the College of Marin main campus in Kentfield and its Indian Valley campus in Novato are past due for major renewal or replacement. Since there have been no major renovations or modernizations in the past 30 years, the facilities are educationally and functionally inadequate in many ways. The College must invest a substantial amount of money to maintain and repair these buildings, and the heating, electrical and other systems are reaching or well beyond their useful lives.

After extensive due diligence, including two independent facilities analyses and significant community input, the College identified a specific list of critical needs. The bond will provide funds to address these top priority facilities needs.

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At the same meeting, the board passed a resolution adopting “green building principles, which will govern all future construction at the college including projects funded by a bond.

About College of Marin

College of Marin has been providing exceptional educational opportunities for students of all ages since 1926. Each semester, nearly 8,000 students are enrolled in over 1,100 credit classes. An additional 6,000 students take advantage of the College's many outstanding community education and community services classes. The College administration is located in Kentfield, CA. The College also operates the Indian Valley campus in Novato, CA.