Description of Measure C

On November 2, 2004, voters in Marin County approved Measure C which provided $249.5 million in funding to update, modernize, and retrofit the Marin Community College District serving County residents at the College of Marin Kentfield and Indian Valley Campuses.

Measure C Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee

As provided in Education Code Section 15278, a Citizens' Oversight Committee was formed by the Community College District's Board of Trustees on February 8, 2005. The committee is composed of members that represent student government, the business community, a senior citizen organization, taxpayer association, college support organizations and the community at large. The role of the committee is to inform the public concerning the District's expenditure of revenues received from the sale of bonds authorized by the voters in the November 2004 general election. In particular, the committee is providing oversight ensuring that:

1. Bond proceeds are expended only for construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or replacement of College facilities in compliance with the projects listed in the Measure C ballot language; and that

2. No funds are used for teacher or administrator salaries or for other college operating expenses.

To carry out its role, the Citizens' Oversight Committee may:

1. Receive and review copies of the annual independent performance audit conducted to ensure that the bond revenue has been expended only on the specific projects listed in the bond proposition;

2. Receive and review copies of the annual independent financial audit of the bond revenue;

3. Inspect college facilities and grounds to ensure that the bond revenue is expended in compliance with the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 1 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution;

4. Receive and review copies of deferred maintenance proposals or plans developed by the district; and

5. Review efforts by the district to maximize bond revenues by implementing various cost saving measures.
Five new members joined the committee in Fall 2008 with terms expiring in May 2010. In May 2009, terms expired for five members of the Committee, with replacements to be added in Fall 2009.

Meetings

Since its formation in February 2005 (to the end of this reporting period), the committee has met 16 (sixteen) times. Minutes of the meetings are posted on the District website and are available to the public. Locations of meetings are announced in advance through the publication of the individual agenda and posted on the District website. The committee meetings are typically held at the Kentfield Campus.

During the reporting period (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009), the Citizens’ Oversight Committee met on three occasions (September 9, 2008; January 27, 2009; and April 7, 2009). In these meetings the committee reviewed audit and quarterly reports through December 31, 2008. The committee also heard several reports from staff on the bond’s planning, design and construction activities, including an update on LEED processes for the bond program.

Major Bond Activity July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

- Under the leadership of Director of Modernization V-Anne Chernock, the program management team from Swinerton Management & Consulting continued their oversight of all bond projects, including fiscal management; scheduling; construction management; and reporting.

- In November 2008, the Board of Trustees approved revisions to the Bond Spending Plan, which outlines how the program’s $264.5 million ($249.5 m bond plus projected $15 m interest) will be spent on seven major building projects, several smaller infrastructure projects, temporary “swing” space, and operating and management expenses.

- During this fiscal year the District continued construction on its first major building project (the Diamond PE Center modernization); started construction on the Transportation Technology Complex and New Main Building projects at IVC; prepared temporary space for the Health Services department; and began and/or completed construction of several other swing space and infrastructure projects.

- The Board authorized the modernization team to begin planning for the bond’s final building project, currently called The Gateway Complex, to be located in the northeast quadrant of the Kentfield campus.

- In Fall 2008 and again in Spring 2009 the District convened a pair of community forums to inform the public of the program’s progress.

Audit Results

The accounting firm of Perry – Smith, LLP conducted two six-month financial and performance reviews for the periods January 1 - June 30, 2008 and July 1 – December 31, 2008. In both cases the firm found that the bond fund financial statements present fairly the financial position and results of operations for the fund.
During each audit the accountants selected a sample representative of 50 warrants issued from the respective reporting period to check for mathematical accuracy and proper representation of bond expenditures. The firm concluded that each of the representative samples accurately represented a valid bond expenditure. Expenses were properly charged in the location indicated; expenses were properly coded; and were determined to represent construction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities. The firm also determined that the expenditures were mathematically accurate. The firm indicated that their findings of 100% accuracy are not common across the work that they do. They also reported that the District has not had an audit exception in 2½ years.


Conclusion

The committee is pleased with the results of the District’s efforts on the Measure C bond program for the time period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

More detailed information about the College District’s bond projects, timelines, and expenditures-to-date are available on the District’s web page: www.marin.edu. From the first page, under “About the College” click on “Measure C Updates” and “Citizen’s Oversight Committee” where you will find minutes, agendas and reports considered by the Citizens’ Oversight Committee. Measure C Updates allows you to view the bond project lists and other bond-related information. If you still have questions or concerns, please contact the Citizens’ Oversight Committee c/o Melinda Molloy at 415-485-9508, e-mail Melinda.Molloy@marin.edu.

The College of Marin Citizens’ Oversight Committee invites community members to attend its meetings held at the College of Marin, Kentfield, CA 94904. All meetings are open to the public; meeting dates, locations and agendas are posted on the District web site.

Measure C Citizens’ Oversight Committee:

Terms expire May 2010:
Bill Scott, Incoming Chair (returning)
Lorraine Berry
Gloria Jones
Scott McKown
Barbara Tarasoff

Appointed Fall 2009, terms expire May 2011:
Diane Ascher
Ted Bright (returning)
Michael Hartnett
Nancy McCauley (continuing)
Donna Reeve
Walter Strauss (continuing)