

Questions and Answers

Measure C

College of the Sequoias Hanford Campus

What will Measure C Provide?

It will:

- Create a facility where police officers and firefighters will be trained to keep our communities safe.
- Build a permanent College of the Sequoias Hanford Campus to provide a wide range of classes, including those which require science and computer labs.
- Allow students to continue their education right here in Hanford, reducing the time and cost of travel to Visalia or other nearby communities.
- Provide the courses needed to complete the first two years of a university education toward a bachelor's degree

Is there any money available for a Hanford Campus through the regular College of the Sequoias District budget?

Yes, general funds go toward the operating of the current College of the Sequoias Hanford Campus, and will continue for the operation of the permanent facility. Additional operating costs will be provided by COS as the Hanford Center expands. Construction costs, however, are not available through the regular budget. As such, the permanent facility will only be built through local monies, such as those that come with the passage of a bond such as Measure C.

College of the Sequoias has gone out for three bond attempts in the past. Each time, Hanford residents have voted to support a bond by the required percentage, but yet a COS bond has not passed?

Yes, although various areas of the College of the Sequoias District passed the bond, results from the entire district were not enough for the bonds to pass. This time, it is only up to the residents of Hanford to determine whether a COS Campus will be built in Hanford. Funds raised in Hanford by this bond will stay in Hanford.

What is so important about having a permanent Hanford Campus?

Studies show that the closer education is available to a population, the more likely students are to attend. Last year, according to the California Postsecondary Education Commission, 73.3% of Kings County graduates did not enroll in any

type of higher education after graduating from high school. This number has climbed from 50% in 2000.

How much is the bond for and what will it cost me, as a homeowner?

This \$22 million bond will cost each homeowner approximately \$25 per \$100,000 (or about \$.07 per day) of assessed property valuation. Therefore, the average homeowner will pay \$0.67 a week or \$2.92 a month, less than the price of a gallon of gasoline.

Is there an alternative to passing a bond?

If the College of the Sequoias Hanford Campus is ever going to be in a permanent facility, local funds must be secured. Without a funding mechanism such as a bond, a facility cannot be built.

What do the Police, Sheriff and Firefighters Associations think about the facilities and programs moving from Visalia to Hanford?

The move to a facility dedicated to training those who keep our neighborhoods safe is fully supported by all of the agencies in Kings and Tulare Counties. These agencies believe that what is important is a modern facility dedicated to training, not where it is located. They are excited about the move and the full range of services that would be provided.

How can the bond monies be spent?

The bond proceeds can only be spent for construction and classroom expenses. They may not be used for administrative overhead or employee salaries. The bond funds will be monitored by a Citizen's Oversight Committee.

The partnership between the College of the Sequoias, Hanford Joint Union High School District, and the City of Hanford has purchased the property. Extensive planning has already gone into this site, which will also house the third campus of Hanford Joint Union High School, a vocational center, and softball complex to be constructed by the City of Hanford, and other facilities to maximize local dollars and improve local educational opportunities.

Why would COS build a campus in Hanford when West Hills Lemoore Campus is nearby?

A couple of reasons. First, decades ago, the residents of the Hanford Joint Union High School District voted to be part of the College of the Sequoias Community College District. As such, the residents of Hanford are part of the COS District and this project enables them to have easier access to the quality programs and services that COS provides. Second, the more local choices that are available in

Kings County for higher education, the better off those residents are. Statistics show that for every 20 minutes that a student must drive, enrollment drops by 50%; for every 10 minutes, participation in higher education drops by 25%. Proximity and choices are not a hindrance to education, they only a help to better serve the residents of the community. This is Hanford's chance to have a community college campus within its borders!

Are there matching funds for this project?

No, there are no matching funds for this project. This, however, should not be the determining force of whether or not to provide educational opportunities to our residents. It is no different than having serious needed repairs/improvements on one's house or automobile and holding off until a better deal came along. More problems continue to arise; the price keeps going up; and we still lose. We cannot afford to postpone addressing the educational needs of our area. We simply cannot afford to delay this project (matching funds or no matching funds)!

What type of safety issue is it to have high school students in the same proximity of a college campus?

First, it is important to understand that these are two different projects, two different schools, two different campuses, located near one another on the 180-acre Educational Center. In other words, the buildings are not right next door to each other. Second, there are benefits to having the two campuses in close proximity. High school students will more easily be able to concurrently enroll and get a jump start on their college education. Lastly, by partnering, the three institutions (the City, the High School District, and COS) are able to save valuable taxpayers dollars by combining resources.

How does the existing COS Hanford facility compare to the plans for the new facility?

Currently, the leased facility is approximately 14,800 square feet. This compares to the new facility which is 40,000 square feet of construction space, and within that, has 27,000 square feet of instructional space. In addition, and although not related to the bond, the Vocational Center has another 17,000 square feet. So, in total, the current facility has approximately 14,800 square feet and the new COS Hanford Campus will have 57,000 square feet. In addition, it is important to realize that the cost of leasing the current facility is \$130,000 per year. When you think about 10 years of leasing a facility, the costs rise exponentially because ownership is not part of the equation. When building/buying a permanent facility, however, money is not lost because it is a facility that Hanford can call its own.

What effort is COS putting forth to show its commitment to Hanford?

COS is committed to the residents of the entire community college district. As such, COS is committed to Hanford, Kings County, the entire project. It is important to realize that the cost of a new campus is not just the building; it also includes the cost of on-going the operations. If residents of Hanford assist the College with cost of the facility, the College is ready and willing to do what it takes to provide the necessary resources to support the facility with staff and operational costs in the long-term.