

TO: City Council
FROM: James L. App, City Manager
SUBJECT: **Cuesta College Bond Measure 2014**
DATE: October 7, 2014

NEEDS: For the City Council to consider endorsing Cuesta College's 2014 Bond Measure (Measure L) to improve and expand campus educational facilities.

FACTS:

1. Cuesta College Board of Trustees have determined that the College requires \$275 Million to make needed facility repairs, modernize technology, replace obsolete modular buildings, and add classrooms.
2. A summary of identified needs is attached. It includes significant investments in North County Campus educational offerings, most notably a new jobs & career training center, early childhood education center, and campus center.
3. If approved by voters, the cost to property owners is just \$19.45 per \$100,000 assessed valuation per year. For a property with an assessed value of \$300,000, that would result in an annual tax less than \$60.00 per year.
4. The mission of the College and purpose of this bond measure is fully consistent with, and fulfills a strategic objective of, the City's and Chamber of Commerce's Economic Strategy.
5. The Paso Robles Chamber of Commerce, PRUSD Superintendent, SLO County Office of Education Superintendent and Board of Trustees endorse Measure L.

ANALYSIS &

CONCLUSION: The proposed bond measure would facilitate the College's continued evolution to a technologically modern, affordable, post high school academic and job training center of learning. For the North County specifically, it would dramatically expand local access to knowledge and skill development training. And it could be accomplished with a very modest tax.

Paso Robles' vitality and future will be built on the development of its people and their capacity to power the local economy. Its labor force must increase in educational attainment and skill development so that local industry can grow and thrive.

The Economic Strategy establishes the promotion and support of education facilities as a key strategic objective. Similarly, it calls for the community and businesses to increase investment in education. Measure L is well suited to the task, thus deserves support.

POLICY

REFERENCE: 2006 Economic Strategy

FISCAL

IMPACT: No direct cost to the City. Benefits will accrue over time in the form of a better educated citizenry, trained in modern technology with a focus on job skill development.

OPTIONS: A. City Council adopt Resolution endorsing Measure L.

B. Amend, modify or reject Option A.

Attachments: Cuesta College Bond Information
Resolution Endorsing Measure L

Measure L – Cuesta College

\$275 million bond, \$19.45 per \$100,000 assessed value

What will the bond funds be used for?

- Temporary classroom replacement and new classroom facilities
- Repairs / Upgrades
- 21st Century Technology Upgrades
- Job and Career Training Facility – NCC
- Debt retirement for capital / construction projects

First Issuance (Spring 2015) (\$70 million)

- Temporary classroom replacement and new classroom facilities
 - Instructional Building – SLO
 - Campus Center - NCC
- Repairs / Upgrades
 - Roofs
 - HVAC
 - Aquatic Center
 - Infrastructure and Utilities
- 21st Century Technology Upgrades
- Debt retirement for capital / construction projects

Second Issuance (2018) (\$70 million)

- Temporary classroom replacement and new classroom facilities
 - Campus Center – SLO
 - Early Childhood Center - NCC
- Repairs / Upgrades (by complex)
- 21st Century Technology Upgrades
- Debt retirement for capital / construction projects

Third Issuance (2021) (\$68 million)

- Repairs / Upgrades (by complex)
- 21st Century Technology Upgrades
- Job and Career Training Facility – NCC

Fourth Issuance (2024) (\$67 million)

- Repairs / Upgrades (by complex)
- 21st Century Technology Upgrades
- Project completion

For more information contact Toni Sommer (805) 546-3120

Frequently Asked Questions About Measure L

Q: What is Measure L?

A: On July 29, the Cuesta College Board of Trustees voted unanimously to place Measure L – the Cuesta College Affordable Education, Job Training and Campus Repair Measure – on the November 4, 2014 ballot to repair and update college facilities to ensure quality, affordable education and job training for local students and veterans. With the cost of attending California's public universities now more than six times that of attending a community college, more local students and their families are relying on Cuesta College. Measure L ensures opportunities for local students to earn college credits, certifications, and job skills at a reasonable price.

Q: How does Measure L impact job training?

A: Cuesta College provides essential job training and workforce preparation for students of all ages. Many of our area's 9-1-1 emergency first-responders are educated here, and Measure L will enable Cuesta College to continue playing a vital role in keeping our communities healthy and safe by training and educating our area's paramedics, nurses, emergency medical responders and other healthcare professionals.

Additionally, Measure L upgrades facilities for training in automotive technology, agriculture trades, early childhood education, law enforcement, welding, construction, engineering, technology and architecture, among others.

Q: Will Measure L address veterans' needs?

A: Our community is home to the California National Guard's Headquarters at Camp San Luis Obispo and the California Military Academy, and our region has a strong tradition of supporting our veterans. Measure L will improve access for disabled students and expand job-placement facilities to assist veterans in re-entering the civilian workforce.

Q: What educational needs and priorities will Measure L address?

A: If adopted by voters, Measure L will address:

- Preparing returning veterans and local students for universities and good-paying jobs
- Providing career technical education in early childhood education, welding, construction, engineering, technology and architecture
- Improving and maintaining nursing and paramedic/9-1-1 emergency medical training programs
- Fixing deteriorating buildings, aging classrooms, leaking roofs and faulty electrical systems that lead to power outages and canceled classes

Q: What does Measure L cost, and is there accountability?

A: Measure L is a \$275 million education bond. It includes strict accountability requirements including a Citizens' Oversight Committee and independent annual financial performance audits to ensure Measure L funds are spent only on voter authorized projects.

- By law, the Citizens' Oversight Committee must include, among others, representation of a bona fide Taxpayers' Association, a Business Organization, and a Senior Citizens' Organization.
- No Measure L funds can go toward administrator salaries or pensions and all funds will be used locally.

Q: How can I get more information?

A: For more Measure L information, visit www.cuesta.edu. If you have any specific questions feel free to contact Vice President Administrative Services Toni Sommer by phone at (805) 546-3120 or by email at tsommer@cuesta.edu

MEASURE L

Official Measure L Ballot Question

"CUESTA COLLEGE AFFORDABLE EDUCATION, JOB TRAINING/ CAMPUS REPAIR MEASURE.

To repair, construct/acquire facilities, sites/equipment, prepare students/returning veterans for universities/good paying jobs, address severe budget cuts by updating aging classrooms, improving/maintaining nursing, paramedic, 9-1-1 medical training, welding, engineering, automotive, early childhood education/other career education programs, repairing deteriorating gas/electrical lines, upgrading technology, shall San Luis Obispo County Community College District issue \$275,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, requiring citizens' oversight, independent audits, all funds used locally?"

YES

NO

RESOLUTION NO. 14-xxx

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES ENDORSING THE “CUESTA COLLEGE AFFORDABLE EDUCATION, JOB TRAINING/CAMPUS REPAIR MEASURE”

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the San Luis Obispo County Community College District has determined that certain educational facilities, infrastructure and equipment at each of the campuses need to be constructed, renovated, acquired and equipped in a fiscally prudent manner, to enable the District to maintain Cuesta College as a valuable community resource that provides an affordable, local education, which increases the educational opportunities of all local students who desire to learn in-demand job skills or transfer to four-year universities; and

WHEREAS, Cuesta College has served San Luis Obispo County and Paso Robles residents for nearly three generations providing essential job training and workforce preparation as well as college transfer units; and

WHEREAS, funding needed repairs and upgrades to support vital educational programs will ensure Cuesta College remains a strong resource for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the cost of attending universities costs as much as six (6) times that of attending Cuesta College, whereby more and more local students and their families rely on Cuesta College; and

WHEREAS, keeping Cuesta’s facilities upgraded will ensure that local students can earn college credits, certificates and job skills at a reasonable price; and

WHEREAS, the San Luis Obispo County Community College District has voted to place a bond measure on the ballot for the November 4, 2014 general election in the amount of \$275,000,000; and,

WHEREAS, the bond measure has strict accountability requirements, including an independent Citizens’ Oversight Committee and annual financial audits, and

WHEREAS, the Paso Robles Economic Strategy establishes the promotion and support of education facilities as a key strategic objective for economic development.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles support and endorse the “Cuesta College Affordable Education, Job Training/Campus Repair Measure” (Measure L) in the amount of \$275,000,000 for the November 4, 2014 General Election.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

Duane Picanco, Mayor

Caryn Jackson, Deputy City Clerk