

Building the future



A letter to the Antelope Valley Community from the members of the Measure R Citizens' Oversight Committee

Letter from the chairman



Autumn in the Antelope Valley! A new college is rising from the foothills in Palmdale, and what a view! You can see for miles - prosperity and industry from Palmdale to Rosamond, Littlerock to Quartz Hill evident as you gaze from the perch of the AVC Palmdale campus site in South Palmdale. And you do not need to be an architect to envision ivy and open pathways among a library and classrooms there.



We, the members of the Citizens' Oversight Committee, were all impressed with the view, vision and immense possibilities available for higher learning in the Palmdale area. The Citizens' Oversight Committee was formed earlier this year to serve in a watchdog role for the \$139 million in construction bonds that were approved by voters for the Antelope Valley Community College District.

At this point, all 18 members of our committee are getting up to speed on the building plans for both the new college campus as well as the existing one. The campus at 30th and Avenue K is in for some huge changes, improvements and expansion.

The development of the much-awaited campus in Palmdale will come - but first state rules mandate we enroll the equivalent of 500 full-time students in Palmdale (at the present campus) before matching funds are available for structures. We need community support and input if we wish to get a head start and achieve this goal by fall 2006.

The Palmdale site is located on a hillside at 37th Street East and Avenue V - now just dirt roads south of Barrel Springs Road. But if all goes according to plan, a developer will start bringing roads and utilities onto the college's 69 acres there, as well as surrounding land that will become a housing development.

That infrastructure work, which will include clearing the new college site, should enable the college to establish modular buildings at the Barrel Springs location as early as fall 2007. The college will need your support to help build student enrollment required to sustain a permanent campus.

Why are officials opening a second campus when the existing Lancaster campus still has room to grow? Why did residents in Palmdale vote to support the bond? We all want access to higher education, that is why.

The farther students have to travel to attend college, the fewer people participate in college. Statistics show that more residents of Lancaster (per 1,000 population) attend AVC than do residents of Palmdale, Littlerock and other areas farther from the Lancaster campus. The Palmdale campus will provide easier access to education for area residents and increase the number of people attending college.

The reality is that the valley will have the population to support at least two

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**Frequently
asked questions****When will we see the
first new building?**

Groundbreaking for the first new building paid for through bond money is expected to occur in late 2006 for an agriculture/landscaping instruction complex and maintenance facility on the north side of the Lancaster campus. The facilities should be open for use in 2008.

Construction of the agriculture and maintenance project will clear the way for one of the college's most anticipated new buildings, a three-story health and science building to create much-needed lab space and enable the college to expand its highly successful associate degree nursing (RN) program. The health and science building project, which will rely on state matching funds, is due to begin construction in 2008.

In the mean time, several other projects are slated including a new parking lot (2006), Student Center remodel (2007), physical education fields (2007), safety, infrastructure and federal Americans with Disability Act (ADA) upgrades (2007-08), and theater arts facility (2010).

**How are building
priorities determined?**

Antelope Valley College's Educational Master Plan – the college's long-range plan for its educational programs – is the guiding force behind the college's facilities plans.

Representatives of the college community using input from students and community members have tried to anticipate the demands within the college's many programs. The Educational Master Plan led to the creation of a Facilities Master Plan.

The Facilities Master Plan provides an outline of the classrooms, labs and

other facilities needed to support the educational programs. From there, college representatives have developed a five-year construction plan that contains a priority listing of projects.

A number of factors help determine these building priorities including safety, space utilization and the ability to secure state matching money.

**How can we be sure bond
money is used wisely?**

College officials are committed to making the best use of taxpayers' money.

By law, the college was required to establish a seven-member Citizens' Oversight Committee. AVC's panel has 18 members, including representatives of the business community, taxpayers' organization, senior citizens' organization, city and county government and students. No college employees are allowed to serve on the panel.

The Citizens' Oversight Committee will review annual audits of bond spending and report to the community.

In addition, the college has restructured to keep project oversight in-house, thereby reducing excessive costs associated with contracted project management.

How do the bonds work?

Voters have authorized the college district to sell up to \$139 million in bonds over the next several years. The first series of bonds was sold to private investors in 2005, with the district receiving \$30 million to fund construction projects.

The principal and interest on the bonds is paid for through property taxes, with the cost to taxpayers estimated at a maximum of \$19.50 per \$100,000 assessed annual valuation.

**More
information?**

For more information and updates on construction progress including oversight committee minutes, check out <http://www.avc.edu/news/constructionupdate.htm>. For specific questions contact Director of Facilities Planning and Campus Development, Doug Jensen, at (661) 722-6470 or djensen@avc.edu.

AGRICULTURE AND LANDSCAPING COMPLEX

Status: District approved July 2005

Estimated Completion: 2007-08

The agriculture/park and landscape management instructional program will be the first to benefit from a new complex to be built with bond funds. The complex, which also includes an expanded campus maintenance facility, will include greenhouses, labs and plenty of outdoor space to provide students with hands-on experience in landscape construction and environmental horticulture.

Funding source: Measure R



THEATER ARTS COMPLEX

Status: State approved April 2005 – awaiting state funding

Estimated Completion: 2010

The theater arts complex will provide instructional programs in a 400-seat facility. The complex includes the main theater and stage, scene shop, costume and make-up areas, dressing rooms, audio-visual booths, storage and support areas. Theater arts courses for stagecraft, stage lighting and other production skills will be taught in the facility. Drama, dance and music productions will be presented in the main theater as well as lectures and assemblies.

Funding source: State capital outlay and Measure R



HEALTH AND SCIENCE BUILDING

Status: Final project proposal submitted - under state review

Estimated Completion: 2011

Science and allied health instructional programs will be served in this two-story building. The building will replace existing science buildings that have become obsolete and provide additional space for expanded programs. The facility will include 44,000 square feet for labs and classrooms to support biological sciences and physical sciences, including a planetarium. 21,000 square feet is dedicated to the health sciences including nursing, emergency medical services, surgical, cardiovascular and radiologic technology. A 2,000-square-foot surgery demonstration lab is a vital new addition to support the growing health sciences programs. There will also be additional general classroom space as well as faculty offices, support space and an outdoor botany greenhouse and garden.

Funding source: State capital outlay and Measure R

college campuses. We all see the new homes being built throughout our valley: Rosamond, Lancaster, Palmdale and outlying areas. The Lancaster campus currently has an enrollment of approximately 12,000 students. Plans call for the college to be enlarged to serve 20,000 students.

The Antelope Valley Community College District encompasses 1,945 square miles, ranging from Rosamond to Acton and Littlerock to Gorman. That equals nearly half of Los Angeles County's land mass! The Antelope Valley represents the last great frontier for L.A. County development and includes the new frontier of space travel being created in Kern County.

Thousands of new homes were built in the Antelope Valley last year. More homes are on the way, including the massive Centennial project by Tejon Ranch, which will add a projected 12,800 single-family homes plus other dwellings to the college's service area.

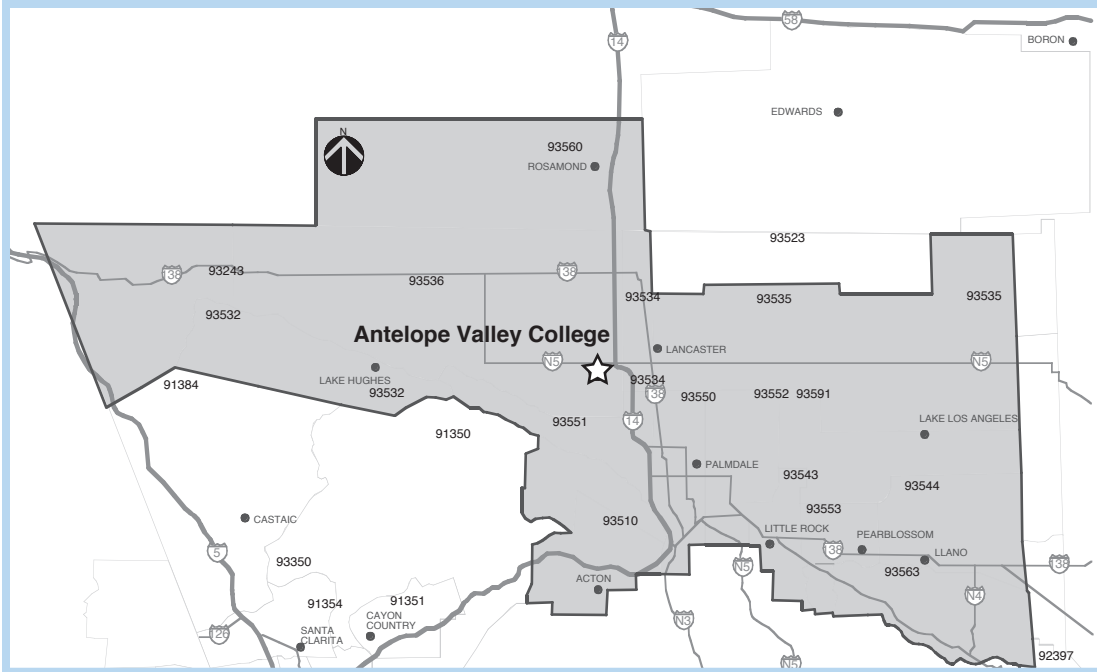
The Citizens' Oversight Committee will continue to monitor the college district's progress as it moves ahead with new facilities to accommodate valley residents.

Olaf Landsgaard,

Chairman

> Letter
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Antelope Valley Community College District covers over 1,945 square miles. The moneys created by Measure R will help to insure that AVC continues to serve the needs of the entire community. Find out more inside.



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