



February 22, 2011

Dear Community Member,

Thank you for your recent questions and concerns about Los Angeles Valley College and our building plans. Valley College has been part of the Valley Glen community for over 60 years and it is encouraging to know that we have so many strong supporters. Like you, many of our faculty, staff and administrators share a long history with the college. Mine began in 1976 when I was first hired as a faculty member.

I understand that you have become aware of planned changes on the Oxnard side of the campus and I would like to address some of the key concerns here. At our February 1st Community Open House we shared the details of our EIR addendum and our revised facilities master plan which are posted on our web site (www.lavc.edu). The plan calls for several new buildings (funded by Measure J) which include a parking structure, a student center, improved athletics fields, and a Media and Performing Arts (MAPA) Center. The MAPA Center will be nestled in the grove of Canary Island Pine and Magnolia trees located on the Oxnard side of the campus. In locating new buildings, we strive to achieve three primary concerns:

1. Complement the College's Tree Master plan.

The college has recently inventoried all 1600 of our trees. The arborist's report will be posted on our web site soon. Our commitment to preserving our urban forest as an educational treasure as well as a community asset is non-wavering. As we locate each new building, we recognize the need to preserve and replace trees to enhance the college physical environment. Eighty-one trees will replace the approximately 63 trees that will be removed to build the Media and Performing Arts Center. These new trees will enhance the overall landscape and will be consistent with the tree master plan which is in development. The college continues to explore alternatives regarding the disposition of trees slated for removal. Ideas that have been suggested include: transplanting to new locations and recycling by milling the wood for use in the building. When construction is complete Valley College will have 1800 trees of varying species and age in good health throughout the campus.

2. Preserve Students Parking On Campus.

Parking is a concern for the community as well as our 19,000 students. The college continually strives to minimize the influx of cars onto residential streets. The EIR addendum shows that three recent campus changes have helped mitigate campus parking challenges.

- Modifying the class schedule so that students can take more classes with fewer trips to campus;
- Accessing rapid transit via the Orange Line; and
- Building a 1200-car parking structure on Ethel Avenue, expected completion date of summer 2013.

3. Operate the Campus within its Infrastructure.

Valley College has a complex infrastructure that extends power, sewer and other utility functions throughout the campus via a system of underground tunnels and pipes. Each building must connect to that system. The location of a building is influenced by the need to make these connections. Health and safety as well as energy conservation are all considered.

In selecting the proposed site for all buildings, including the Media and Performing Arts (MAPA) Center, existing trees, parking demands, and campus infrastructure have all been considered.

Next Steps.

The college will be presenting its EIR Addendum to the LACCD Board of Trustees at its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 23, 2011. The Board will receive the document and review all communications about the proposal. The Board will not vote on February 23rd. They will use the next 30 days to evaluate the request, voting at their meeting on March 23rd.

The February 1st Community Open House was publicized with a Daily News ad on January 25, and college representative knocked on doors in the neighborhood around the campus to notify residents of the event and left leaflets (door hangers) when residents were not home between January 24-25. Starting January 21, the college also posted information on the college web site, did email blasts, sent postcards to local residents, and posted announcements on Facebook and Twitter. About two dozen community members attended.

However, since the close of our public comment period on February 4th, we have received additional questions and concerns from the community. As a result, Valley College will hold a second Community Open House on Thursday, March 3rd, 2011 at 6:30 pm in Campus Center. The Los Angeles City Council District #2 office, the Valley Glen Neighborhood Council, and the Valley Glen Neighborhood Association will co-host this informational meeting along with the college.

Thank you for your continued support of Los Angeles Valley College. I look forward to meeting you on campus.

Sincerely,

Susan Carleo, President