



The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: May 6-7, 2013

SUBJECT: Request For State Approval Of The Southwestern Community College District's San Ysidro Higher Education Center		Item Number: 2.5	
		Attachment: No	
CATEGORY:	College Finance and Facilities Planning	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	<i>Frederick E. Harris</i> Frederick E. Harris, Assistant Vice Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	<i>Brice W. Harris</i> Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Action	X
		Information	

ISSUE: This item requests state approval of the San Ysidro Higher Education Center in the Southwestern Community College District. California Code of Regulations, title 5 section 55180(b) defines an Educational Center as “a postsecondary operation established and administered by an existing college or district at a location away from the campus of the parent institution” which:

- Is planned to continue for ten or more years;
- Generates at least 500 full-time equivalent student annually;
- Has an on-site administrator;
- Offers programs leading to certificates and/or degrees conferred by the parent institution; and
- Has been approved by the Board of Governors.

BACKGROUND: Southwestern College began offering classes to 1,657 students in its temporary quarters at Chula Vista High School in 1961. Groundbreaking for the present campus on 156 acres was in 1963, and by September of 1964 initial construction was completed and classes were being offered at the new campus in Chula Vista. The District consists of Southwestern College, the Otay Mesa Higher Education Center, and two outreach operations located in National City and San Ysidro. These four locations allow the District to meet its goal of being an accessible source of higher education in the southern San Diego region.

The District submitted a Letter of Intent to the Chancellor’s Office in September 2011. The Letter of Intent was approved by the Chancellor’s Office in December 2011. The District then submitted enrollment projections for the center to the Department of Finance and the Department of Finance approved the projections on April 26, 2012. The Needs Study was submitted to the Chancellor’s Office in June 2012.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the San Ysidro Higher Education Center as a state-approved educational center.

ANALYSIS: The San Ysidro Higher Education Center was established as an outreach center in 1988 at the beginning of the District's effort to decentralize services in order to increase student participation in historically underserved areas. The San Ysidro Higher Education Center has been operating for over 23 years, offering general education, occupational skills, basic skills and personal development courses to students in the community.

Demographic data supports the need for an educational center in the San Ysidro area. The San Ysidro Higher Educational Center is located in southern San Diego County, just minutes from the United States-Mexico international border and ten miles south of Southwestern College. Historically, the service area population has attained a low level of educational achievement, and a community college educational center will be able to provide programs and services specific to the educational and job training needs of residents within the San Ysidro service area.

The Southwestern Community College District funded construction of the original 7,500 gross square feet San Ysidro Higher Education Center using local Measure AA bond funds. The new facility opened in January 2009 and is a two-story building that is approximately 19,000 gross square feet.

Population and Enrollment Projections

The demographic profile of the San Ysidro service area supports the need for the existing San Ysidro outreach location to become an educational center. The San Ysidro Higher Education Center is estimated to generate most of its enrollment from the communities directly surrounding it. This includes the town of San Ysidro (part of southern San Diego), Imperial Beach and southwestern San Diego County. Imperial Beach is 100 percent located in the San Ysidro Higher Education Center service area, while only about 6.8 percent of the city of San Diego and 3.9 percent of San Diego County are located in the primary service area.

The total population within the Center service area was approximately 219,900 persons in the year 2000 based on the population data and the percentage of each geographic area located in the San Ysidro service area as previously discussed. The California Department of Finance estimates that the service area population grew by approximately 12.8 percent to 248,000 persons by the year 2010, and estimates that the population in the Center service area is expected to increase 8.9 percent between 2011 and 2020.

The San Ysidro Higher Education Center has generated over 500 full-time equivalent students annually since 2009-10. Table 1 shows recent enrollment projections for the Center developed by the Southwestern Community College District and approved by the Department of Finance Demographic Research Unit. However, by 2011-12, actual enrollment at the outreach center had reached 1,132 full-time equivalent students, exceeding the enrollment projections and the 500 full-time equivalent student threshold requirement for new centers. This existing full-time equivalent student and the projected growth in the service area show the Center will be a viable program.

Table 1: Department of Finance Enrollment, WSCH, and FTES Growth Driven Projections

Year	Fall Enrollment	WSCH/Enrollment	WSCH	Fall FTES	Annual FTES
2012-13	1,325	8.39	11,122	371	733
2013-14	1,386	8.69	12,051	402	795
2014-15	1,448	8.99	13,025	434	858
2015-16	1,511	9.29	14,044	468	926
2016-17	1,575	9.59	15,109	504	996
2017-18	1,640	9.89	16,221	541	1,069
2018-19	1,705	10.19	17,381	579	1,145

Alternatives

The Southwestern Community College District considered a number of alternatives to pursuing and establishing a state-approved educational center. However, the merits of gaining official center status for the San Ysidro Higher Education Center offer numerous financial advantages compared to the alternatives. The alternatives evaluated as part of the needs study included the following:

Remain an Outreach Center

Remaining an outreach center would limit the ability of the San Ysidro Higher Education Center to receive state funding to expand its offerings, strengthen its programs, and serve more students. This scenario would pose a challenge considering the success achieved at this particular location and the population growth of the service area. According to the needs study, the Department of Finance estimates that from 2000 to 2010 the population in San Diego County increased 14.6 percent and is projected to increase another 8.5 percent from 2011 to 2020. With population growth steadily climbing, funding for the Center will be instrumental in serving a growing enrollment and keeping strong educational programs and services for students.

Expand Southwestern College

Expansion of facilities at Southwestern College would not align with the district’s decentralization strategy. This strategy was designed to alleviate enrollment pressures at the main campus and to better serve residents in the San Ysidro service area. Additionally, expanding the course offerings at Southwestern College will not provide for the educational needs of the underserved population of the San Ysidro service area. In 2009, the District used local general obligation bond funds to rebuild the San Ysidro Higher Education Center into a 19,000 gross square foot state-of-the-art building that has more classrooms and improved support facilities. The expansion of the Center to a state-approved educational center will attract students from the San Ysidro service area who would not typically attend classes only offered at Southwestern College.

Increase the Utilization of Existing Institutions

The District could increase the utilization of their existing institutions at Southwestern College, the National City Higher Educational Center, or the Otay Mesa Higher Educational Center. However, according to the needs study, few students from the San Ysidro service area now attend either the National City or Otay Mesa Higher Education Centers.

Shared Use with Other Postsecondary Institutions

There are 20 different higher educational institutions within a 25 mile radius of the San Ysidro Higher Education Center, many of which are private four-year institutions, CSUs, and UCs. Sharing facilities is not a viable option, as many of the postsecondary institutions are more than 10 miles away from the San Ysidro site. Additionally, the purpose of the Center is to allow local residents the opportunity to get an education and gain training without having a long commute or having to travel out of the area. Thus, the Center is successfully serving the residents of its communities and increasing accessibility to higher education.

Utilization of Non-traditional Delivery Methods

Southwestern Community College District already supports different types of non-traditional delivery methods for educational courses, including a Cooperative Work Experience Education program, online courses, and hybrid courses. Although the use of non-traditional instructional delivery is used by the district, some students benefit from a traditional educational setting in order to succeed. Additionally, access to traditional educational facilities is important to maintain awareness of the importance of higher education opportunities.

Academic Planning and Program Justification

Chancellor's Office staff in the Academic Affairs Division reviewed the District's needs study and found no significant inter-district concerns, that the proposed delivery system is reasonable, and that the District provided information to support the academic program offerings.

The San Ysidro Higher Education Center reflects a full-service philosophy, providing a wide variety of courses for students to pursue an Associate's degree and/or complete general education requirements for transfer, basic skills preparation, or occupational skills training. Current program offerings include Art, Biology, Business, Child Development, Computer Science, Dance, English as a Second Language, English, History, Math, Spanish and other transfer related courses. The continued success and size of these programs is reflective of the planning and commitment from Southwestern Community College District to ensure that students attending the San Ysidro Higher Education Center have ample opportunity to succeed academically.

Student Services and Outreach

Staff from the Student Services and Special Programs Division in the Chancellor's Office reviewed the student support services described in the needs study and concluded that it contains sufficient justification for the proposed educational center.

The San Ysidro Higher Education Center has been in operation since 1988 and is already providing a range of student services with the goal of implementing a "One-Stop-Shop" concept so that students can receive all of the services to support their educational needs on site. The District has provided information that documents the ability of the Center to offer a complete and adequate array of services that are tailored to the needs of Southwestern Community College District students. Services currently offered include Admissions/Records, Registration, Assessment and Testing, Counseling, Financial Aid, EOPS, Disability Support Services and Tutoring, a Library/Learning Resource Center, and Health Services. By recognizing the San Ysidro Higher Education Center as a

state-approved educational center, it will be able to increase its outreach efforts and provide new programs and services that respond to the needs of its service area population.

Support and Capital Outlay Budget Projections

The Chancellor's Office College Finance and Facilities Planning Division have reviewed the San Ysidro Higher Education Center needs study and has made the following determinations. The District's fiscal performance and condition are adequate to meet the future fiscal demands of the proposed center. The District has effectively managed its monetary resources to achieve an annual fund balance of 6.87 percent, which is \$1.4 million above the recommended minimum five percent reserve. The full-time equivalent student potential of the San Ysidro Higher Education Center should enable the District to take full advantage of any additional system funding available in the 2013-14 and ongoing budget years. The District certified that the Center achieved 1,132 full-time equivalent students in FY 2011-12 which exceeded district enrollment projections.

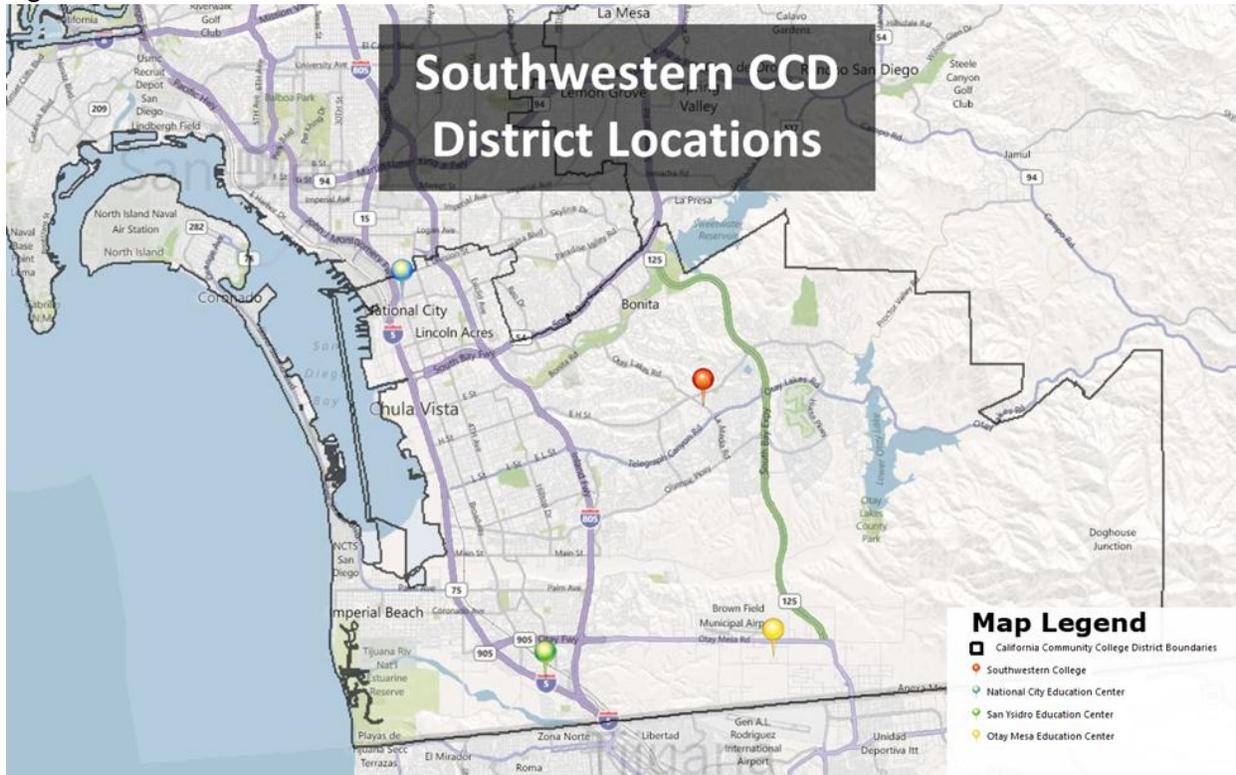
There are no plans for any additional capital outlay improvements at the Center within the next five years. Furthermore, it is not anticipated that any state capital outlay funding will be sought for the Center in the next five years.

Geographic and Physical Accessibility

The San Ysidro Higher Education Center campus is readily accessible from several major freeways and public transportation. The Center is located in the town of San Ysidro, adjacent to Interstate 5. Highway 905 is to the north and Interstate 805 is 1.6 miles to the south east. The Center is also readily accessible by public transportation including the trolley system.

Physical accessibility to the San Ysidro campus is also provided as there is ample student parking that is easily accessible. The new facility is up to current Americans with Disabilities Act compliance.

Figure 1: Southwestern CCD District Locations



Source: 2010 ESRI Data and Maps, California Community College GIS Collaborative

Effects on Other Institutions

State guidelines have traditionally indicated that a reasonable expectation for travel time to attend community college classes is no more than 30 minutes. The drive time from the San Ysidro Higher Education Center to the main Southwestern College campus is only approximately 15 driving minutes away. It should be noted, however, that travel time can easily top 30 minutes during peak commute hours and using public transportation can extend this commute to over an hour.

There are approximately 20 neighboring higher education institutions within a 25 mile radius of the Center. Most of these institutions are private or independent schools and/or have programs that are directed to a special interest of potential students. Most of these institutions offer a unique curriculum that focuses on specific areas of study, and are not anticipated to be impacted by the Center.

Neighboring higher education institutions have offered letters showing their support for the San Ysidro Higher Education Center. Letters of support have been received from San Diego and Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College Districts.

To mitigate any negative impact the San Ysidro Higher Education Center may have on enrollment at Southwestern College, there has been and will continue to be careful consideration regarding the type of programs and services offered at each location. The District recognizes that careful curriculum planning is required to avoid duplication of course offerings and to ensure continued availability of resources at each site.

Environmental Impact

Southwestern Community College District expanded its outreach and opened the San Ysidro Higher Education Center in 1988. In 2007, the district decided to replace the old facility with a new two-story building of approximately 19,000 gross square feet. The environmental impacts were studied appropriately, and as a result, a Notice of Exemption was filed with the State Clearing House (State Clearing House # 2007058349) in 2007. The Notice of Exemption was filed because there would be no changes to business hours or access to campus. The Notice of Exemption is compliant with the California Environmental Quality Act guidelines. In February of 2009, the Notice of Completion (DOC # 2009-0068009) was filed for the San Ysidro Higher Education Center of Southwestern Community College District.

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