



# The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: March 16-17, 2015

SUBJECT: Approval of Sequoias Community College District's Hanford Educational Center		Item Number: 2.3	
		Attachment: No	
CATEGORY:	College Finance and Facilities Planning	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	 Dan Troy, Vice Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	 Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Action	X
		Information	

**ISSUE:** This item presents Sequoias Community College District's request for state approval of the Hanford Educational Center.

**BACKGROUND:** The Sequoias Community College District is situated on the eastern side of the San Joaquin Valley in one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world covering three counties: Tulare, Kings, and Fresno. The district serves an area of about 2,893 square miles and is comprised of College of the Sequoias, Tulare Center, Hanford Educational Center, and various outreach locations throughout Kings and Tulare Counties. These locations allow the district to serve the increasing educational needs of its residents in communities undergoing significant population growth and demographic and business development changes.

The Letter of Intent for the Hanford Educational Center was submitted by the district to the Chancellor's Office in June 2011 and approved in July 2011. The district's enrollment projections were approved by the Department of Finance in April 2012 and the Needs Assessment was submitted to the Chancellor's Office in July 2014.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** It is recommended that the Board of Governors consider the approval of Hanford Educational Center as a state-approved educational center.

**ANALYSIS:** In accordance with the California Code of Regulations, title 5 section 55180(b), an educational center is defined 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 students 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

The Sequoias Community College District in the Central Valley includes one of the fastest growing areas in California with the second most productive agricultural area in the United States (Tulare County). The Hanford Educational Center began its operation in 1966 at Hanford High School before moving to other rental facilities. These leased facilities did not provide adequate space to support instructional laboratories or classrooms for programs such as Administration of Justice and Public Safety Training. The permanent site for the center was acquired in 2001 in partnership with the City of Hanford and Hanford High School District. The permanent Hanford Educational Center, Sierra Pacific High School, and a city managed multi-purpose athletic and recreational facility were then constructed on the 180-acre, joint-use parcel. The Hanford Educational Center was constructed with Measure C funds, a \$22 million local bond approved by the voters in 2006 to expand and improve educational programs and services to residents in the surrounding Kings County area. The center serves the southern and western areas of the Sequoias Community College District, including the cities of Hanford, Visalia, and Tulare. The center offers general education courses and technical training programs needed to better serve the diverse needs of these communities and provide increased enrollment opportunities for the residents.

The Hanford Educational Center presently has five buildings with a total of approximately 55,891 gross square feet/35,359 assigned square feet and consists of classrooms, student services operations, and faculty offices. The center offers courses to help students transition from high school to college, complete general education requirements for transfer to universities, obtain job training, and attain degrees in select vocational education programs such as Administration of Justice, Industrial Maintenance, Agricultural Business Management, Fire Technology, and Law Enforcement.

### **Population and Enrollment Projections**

The State of California Department of Finance projected the Central Valley area would be one of the fastest growing areas in California. From 1990 to 2000, the population of Kings and Tulare Counties grew by 27.6 percent and 18 percent, respectively, whereas the state of California grew by 13.8 percent. From 2000 to 2010, Kings and Tulare Counties grew by 18 percent and 19.9 percent, respectively, compared to the state’s growth of 9.9percent. Population projections for the Hanford Educational Center service area indicate continued population growth of approximately 51 percent from 394,759 people in year 2010 to 595,376 people by year 2030.

The United States 2010 Census indicates that residents of Kings and Tulare Counties have a lower level of educational achievement than the statewide average. The percentages of adult residents of Kings and Tulare Counties who are high school graduates are 68.9 percent and 67.3 percent, respectively, compared to the state’s 80.7 percent of the statewide population. Only 11.8 percent of the adults in Kings County and 13 percent in Tulare County have a Bachelor’s or higher college degree compared to

the state’s 30.1 percent of the statewide population. Additionally, the service area is comprised of a very diverse population in terms of ethnicity and socio-economic status. The Hispanic/Latino population in the Kings County service area is much higher compared to California as a whole, 51.4 percent versus 38.1 percent, respectively. The center is strategically located to serve the needs of the community residents. The center provides course offerings and programs that prepare the area’s undereducated residents and the underrepresented populations for better careers.

The enrollment forecast for the Hanford Educational Center was developed by the Sequoias Community College District and approved by the Department of Finance in April 2012 (Table 1). The district has identified the center as serving a total of 835 full-time equivalent students (FTES) in its first academic year at the new site in 2010. For its most recent academic year 2013, the district has certified 954 FTES at the center and anticipates reaching the 1,000 FTES requirement for apportionment funding by academic year 2017 rather than 2018 as forecasted in Table 1.

Table 1 - Enrollment projections (as approved by Department of Finance)

Sequoias Community College District Hanford Educational Center					
Year	Fall Enrollment	WSCH/ Enrollment	WSCH	Fall FTES	Annual FTES
2012	1,612	6.56	10,572	352	725
2013	1,687	6.66	11,233	374	771
2014	1,763	6.75	11,910	397	818
2015	1,842	6.84	12,604	420	866
2016	1,922	6.93	13,312	444	916
2017	1,997	7.00	13,969	466	961
2018	2,072	7.06	14,639	488	1,008

The existing FTES at the center and the projected strong growth for Kings and Tulare Counties demonstrate that the Hanford Educational Center will continue to exceed the minimum 500 FTES requirement for state center approval. The center will provide opportunities to serve the growing educational needs in the region by improving student access and increasing enrollment participation.

**Alternatives**

The development of the permanent Hanford Educational Center has been supported and funded by local voters to accommodate the educational needs of a rapidly growing service area, the demographic and business development changes within its community, and the increased shift of enrollment from the land-locked College of the Sequoias. The state-approved center approach provides various advantages over the alternatives listed below:

### *Expansion of Existing Institutions*

The development of the Hanford Educational Center is consistent with the Sequoias Community College District's Education and Facility Master Plans. The College of the Sequoias site is land-locked from further expansion. The Hanford Educational Center is approximately 23 miles from the College of the Sequoias and 30 miles from the Tulare Center. Expanding the Tulare Center in lieu of the permanent establishment and future expansion of the Hanford Educational Center will not address the need to provide capacity and accessibility for the intended community considering the more than 30-mile distance between the Tulare Center and the Hanford Educational Center service area.

### *Increased Utilization of Existing Institutions*

The Sequoias Community College District is fully utilizing its three sites -- College of the Sequoias, Tulare Center, and Hanford Educational Center -- during day and evening operations, and when feasible, during weekends and summer months. Increasing the offering of programs at the existing facilities will not provide the growing population in Kings and Tulare Counties with the increased access opportunities provided by the Hanford Educational Center. With the land-locked College of the Sequoias and the distant Tulare Center specializing in agricultural program offerings, the Hanford Educational Center offers a variety of program -- e.g., Administration of Justice, Biology, Computer, English, Fire Technology, Industry and Technology, Math, and Police Science -- to accommodate the increasing enrollment demand and to better meet the educational needs of residents in the Hanford Educational Center service area.

### *Shared Use of Facilities with Other Postsecondary Institutions*

The Sequoias Community College District collaborates with other higher education entities whenever feasible. The district also partners with other institutions, such as middle and high schools, hospitals, community centers, churches, and private vocational education providers to achieve diverse instructional deliveries.

The Sequoias Community College District works in partnership with the Hanford High School District and the City of Hanford to assist students with transfer, job training and developmental, and community education courses. The Hanford Educational Center has achieved additional space efficiencies by utilizing the adjacent Sierra Pacific High School facility to conduct college-level chemistry classes. Additionally, partnerships have also been established with the California State University Fresno and University of the Pacific to make space available at the Hanford Educational Center to provide for higher education opportunities to students in Tulare and Kings Counties.

The joint-use of other facilities situated outside of the Hanford Educational Center's service area would not provide the access needed to supply the residents with the opportunity to gain education for transfer, job training, and personal development as students would need to travel approximately one hour or more to attend classes offered at these facilities. West Hills College Lemoore is the closest neighboring campus and is approximately 11 miles away from the Hanford Educational Center. The center provides programs in public safety (police and fire) training which are not offered by the West Hills Community College District. In addition, the center is certified by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to provide advanced training to law enforcement individuals in the region.

### *Utilization of Non-Traditional Instructional Delivery*

The Sequoias Community College District offers distance education through online courses and short-term courses. These courses are designed to meet the needs of students who may live some distance away from a campus, work full-time, or have other priorities that hinder their ability to take a course in the traditional setting. The district continues to expand the online course offerings with College of the Sequoias offering about 54 online classes and 32 hybrid classes that are a mix of face-to-face and online learning. Several hybrid classes are also offered at the Hanford Educational Center. A large number of the residents in the center service area are first generation college students and fluent only in Spanish or other non-English languages. These students are more likely to benefit from extensive student support services and traditional instructional delivery methods than non-traditional instructional delivery methods. Therefore, distance learning for these residents generally serves as a complement, rather than as an alternative, to the traditional classroom setting.

### *Private Fundraising or Donations of Land or Facilities*

The Sequoias Community College District--in partnership with the City of Hanford--used general funds to purchase their share of the 180-acre property in 2001. The permanent Hanford Educational Center was constructed with a community supported, \$22 million local bond (Measure C) passed in June 2006. Additionally, the City of Hanford was able to obtain \$3.5 million through a grant effort which provided about 50 percent of the funding for the Vocational Education Building that houses the Industrial Maintenance and Electrician Training programs offered at the Hanford Educational Center.

### **Academic Planning and Program Justification**

The staff in the Chancellor's Office Academic Affairs Division have reviewed the Needs Assessment and found no significant inter-district concerns, determined the delivery system at the Hanford Educational Center is reasonable, and concluded that the Sequoias Community College District has provided adequate information to support the course offerings.

The Hanford Educational Center was established to prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions, offer technical education for skilled jobs that reflect the needs of the region, and provide basic skills development. The center's program offerings include Agricultural Management, Administration of Justice, Biology, Computer, English, ESL, Fire Technology, Industry and Technology, Math, and Police Science. As enrollment increases, the Sequoias Community College District will identify additional program offerings and course sections based on the needs of the community.

### **Student Services and Outreach**

The Chancellor's Office Student Services and Special Programs Division staff have determined that the level of staffing and student support services at the Hanford Educational Center is adequate for the center's student population.

The Hanford Hub at the center, staffed by generalists who are cross-trained in many aspects of student services, provides a one-stop approach by offering a variety of student services and information to meet the needs of the diverse student population including financial aid assistance, disabled student programs and services, extended opportunity programs and services, work experience, CalWORKs, counseling, assessment/placement testing, tutoring, bookstore, and library. Students can also access a wealth of information on the campus website including student services and activities. The website also

has an interactive feature (AskCOS) that allows students needing assistance to ask questions and receive responses.

### **Support and Capital Outlay Budget Projections**

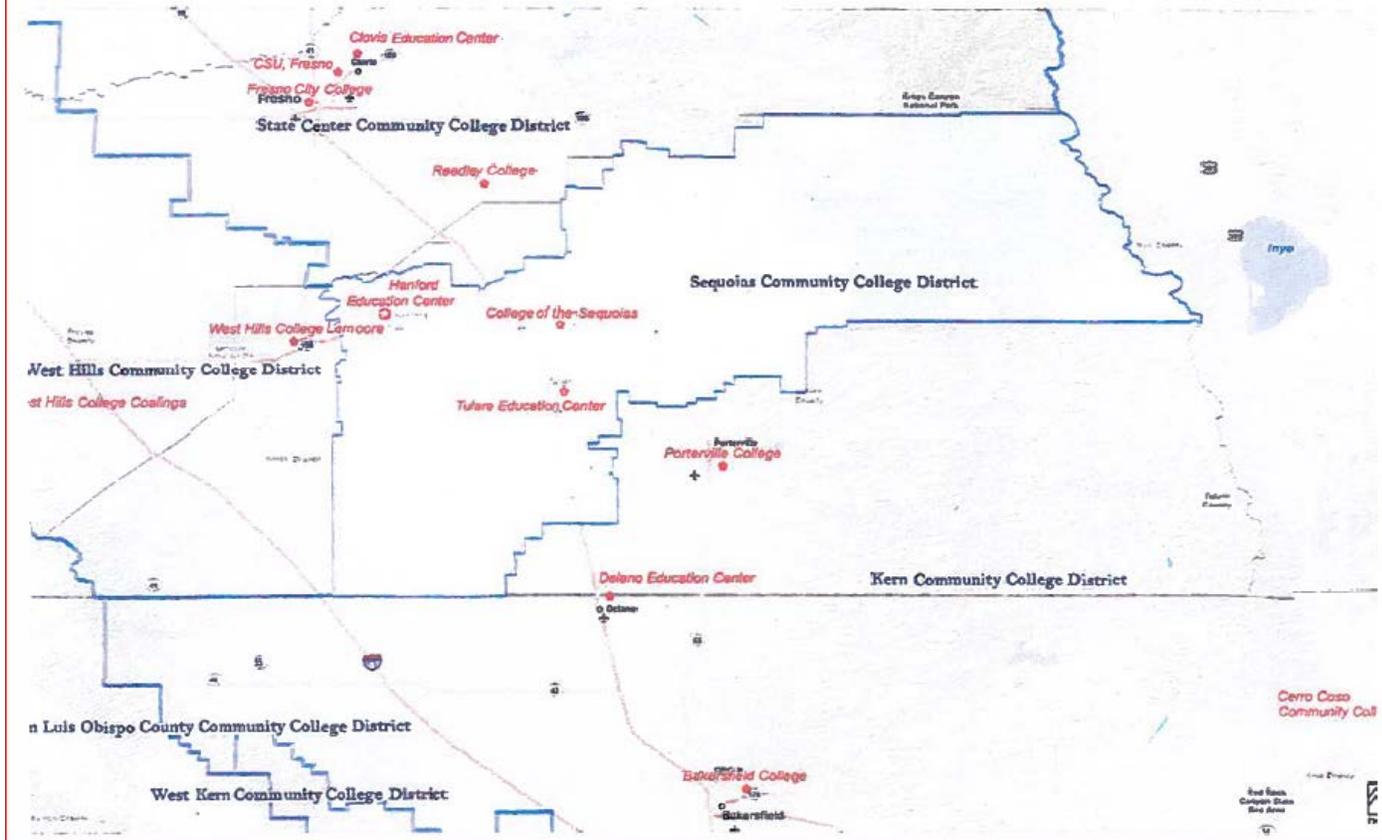
The Chancellor's Office College Finance and Facilities Planning Division has conducted their review and concluded that the district has adequately demonstrated that the forecasted FTES at the Hanford Educational Center will meet the anticipated fiscal demands of the growing center. The district has succeeded in maintaining and improving its annual fund balance well above the recommended minimum reserve of 5 percent, from a fund balance of 5.5percent in fiscal year 2010-11 (initial year for the permanent center site) to 10percent in fiscal year 2013-14.

The district does not expect any additional capital outlay construction at the center over the next five years. Long-term future planning shows the district intends to submit a proposal for the construction of additional facilities beginning with fiscal year 2021-22, depending on enrollment needs, project eligibility, and funding availability. This phase II facilities expansion is estimated to provide approximately 25,000 assignable square feet of additional space at an estimated cost of approximately \$21 million in today's dollars, to be funded equally by the district and the state, and an additional cost of \$3.3 million to the district's support budget.

### **Geographic and Physical Accessibility**

The Hanford Educational Center is located on the west border of the City of Hanford between Lacey Blvd. and Grangeville Blvd. The center can be easily accessed via major roadways and state Highway 198 which is about a mile and a half to the south of the center, allowing students to travel quickly and easily to reach the center. Data provided by the Sequoias Community College District shows that more than half of the students who attended the center in spring 2014 reside within the City of Hanford with minimal commute time (< 1 minute). The commute time for the majority of the remaining students who attended the center during that same period was less than thirty minutes. The center provides plenty of parking accessibility, including ADA compliant stalls, to accommodate students driving to campus. In addition, overflow parking accommodations are available at the adjacent high school and the City of Hanford Athletic Complex parking facilities. There is also an extensive public transportation system and a bus stop shelter immediately in front of the center, providing students in the surrounding communities convenient access to public transportation for travel to and from the center as well as travel between the center and the College of the Sequoias.

**DISPLAY 9: Neighboring Postsecondary Institutions to Hanford Education Center**



### Effects on Other Institutions

The Sequoias Community College District has three neighboring districts: Kern Community College District, State Center Community College District, and West Hills Community College District. The West Hills College Lemoore is the closest neighboring campus to the Hanford Educational Center, approximately 11 miles away; other campuses from the surrounding districts -- West Hills College Coalinga, Reedley College, and Porterville College -- are remotely located with driving times of approximately one hour or longer. The Sequoias Community College District has identified most of the students who attend the Hanford Educational Center as being from the district's service area with minimal or no impact to surrounding campuses due to the extensive population increases projected for the Central San Joaquin Valley, the considerable distance between the institutions and/or differing programs offered.

The educational access provided by these community college campuses continues to sustain and improve student enrollment to meet the growing needs of residents in the region. Support for the Hanford Educational Center has been received from its neighboring districts (Kern Community College District, State Center Community College District, and West Hills Community College District), various education superintendents, federal, state, and local governments, and community service members and leaders.

***Environmental Impact***

The Sequoias Community College District is in full compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. The Notice of Preparation for the 180-acre site for the joint use of facilities by the three separate entities -- Hanford Educational Center, City of Hanford, and Hanford High School District -- was filed with the State Clearinghouse in December 2001 (#2001121025). The Notice of Completion was filed in July 2002 and the review of the Draft EIR was completed in September 2002, followed by the filing of the Notice of Determination in March 2003.

***Economic Efficiency***

The Hanford Educational Center site was purchased by Sequoias Community College District in partnership with the City of Hanford and the Hanford High School District. This partnership provides for joint site and facilities use that promotes economic efficiency. Additionally, the initial development of infrastructure, site, construction, and equipment were all locally funded. Also, the funding for the Vocational Education Building at the Hanford Educational Center that supports the Industrial Maintenance and Electrician Training programs was partly funded with approximately \$3.5 million Economic Development Grant attained by the City of Hanford. These contributing factors help achieve economic efficiency and avoid additional financial burden to the State.