

MURRAY & DOWNS

Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 3, Fall 2006



Sierra College Campus Courtyard - Rocklin, CA

Prop 1D Passes!

The \$10.4 billion Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 1D) just passed! With this most recent success, a total of over \$38 billion in state bonds for K-12 facilities has been approved by voters during the past decade. Here is how the bond is allocated:

K-12	
Modernization:	3,300,000,000
New Construction:	1,900,000,000
Severely Overcrowded Schools:	1,000,000,000
Charter Schools Facilities:	500,000,000
Career Technical Facilities:	500,000,000
Environment-Friendly:	100,000,000
Joint-Use:	29,000,000
Total K-12:	<u>\$7,300,000,000</u>

Higher Education

Community Colleges:	1,507,000,000
University of California:	890,000,000
California State University:	690,000,000
Total Higher Education:	<u>\$3,087,000,000</u>

Although similar in structure to 2004's Prop 55, Proposition 1D does contain a few new elements, including: separate funding categories for "Environment Friendly Projects" and "Career Technical Education Facilities" in the K-12 arena, and the option for community college districts to choose whether to build according to the Field Act or according to the California Building Standards Code. This relief has long been desired, and will more closely align with how CSU and UC projects are approached.

Other notable differences between the previous facilities bond and Prop 1D include a substantial shift in the amounts of funding allocated for K-12 projects between modernization and new construction projects (due primarily to the fact that almost \$3 billion is still unallocated for new construction projects). Funds for community Colleges have increased 63% over those allocated from Prop 55 while CSU and UC systems funds increased 29% over Prop 55 amounts.

Incidentally, ALL of the proposed infrastructure bonds, Propositions 1A-1E were successful. □

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Growing Pains for Community Colleges

Debra Smith, AIA - Senior Project Architect

Faced with the need to provide facilities for growing student body populations, some community college districts have determined the most effective method to serve their communities is through building and maintaining separate, smaller-scale mini-campuses, or *learning centers*. Other districts continue to develop centralized full-service campuses as quickly as they can fund the space.

Community colleges do not have the income stream to go the private sector direction of leasing space in corporate office complexes, nor do they have the possibility of university research grants to fund large expansions. Community colleges must

"The districts share the common goal to best serve their students..."

rely upon a combination of state and local funding which ultimately limits the facility growth models for community colleges.

This article looks at two districts that are in close proximity to one another in the Sacramento area. Both districts are facing substantial growth rates for their regions, forcing their boards to adopt new facility development plans. The first, Los Rios Community College District (LRCCD) in Sacramento, determined that the development of educational *learning centers* in specific high growth areas would provide needed facilities more rapidly with less cost, and place the centers closer to potential students, reducing their number and distance of trips. LRCCD has utilized a combination of local bonds and state funding to build these *learning centers*.

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AIACV Design Award



Fausel Professional Building - Placerville, CA

OK, so just a little bit of pride coming out... Murray & Downs was recently awarded a Citation Award in the *Reconstruction & Restoration, Unbuilt* category by the AIA Central Valley Chapter for our design of the Fausel Professional Building in Placerville. The complex project includes slightly rotating, moving and restoring an existing historic building to accommodate

a new, 2-story 18,650 sf building constructed behind the historic structure and integrated into the steep hillside. Sustainable design components include high-efficiency HVAC and energy management systems, waterless urinals, extensive natural daylighting, and the use of bioswales and detention basins to naturally filter stormwater discharge. Construction is planned for Spring '07. □

Tidbit

(Internal Office Communications)

The Plane, the Plane

Many times we detail and elevate conditions which show a ground plane line. For convenience we may draw that line level. When the actual site condition is sloping, waving, jagged, etc. the edge condition of the finish material applied to the detail/elevation needs to be considered. Drawing in two dimensions (2D) and thinking/visualizing in three dimensions (3D) is important and a big help. For example, on a concrete retaining structure that has a thin brick veneer specified, it is best to detail a horizontal ledge above the ground level for the thin brick to stop against. This will eliminate the need for intricate saw-cutting of the veneer material to match a ground (or asphalt) plane that most likely will not be level.

Fun Facts

An average cow gives nearly 200,000 glasses of milk in her lifetime.

A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.

IBM introduced their first personal computer in 1981.

The most popular boat name is Obsession.

“Q” is the only letter in the alphabet not appearing in the name of any US state.

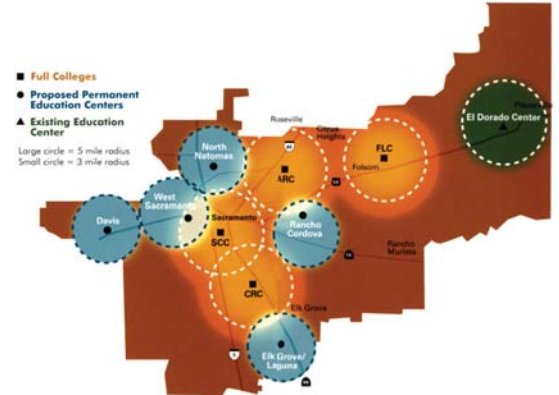
Hawaii is the only state with one school district.

The Japanese word “judo” means “the gentle way.”

Growing Pains

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The second district, Sierra Community College District (SCCD), has a twenty-year master plan to provide for the growth of half again as many students within the district. The plan is to maintain a single primary college with multiple campuses. The campuses will be within reasonable driving distance of all students and remote areas will be served by distance learning opportunities rather than physical facilities. SCCD has primarily utilized local bond measures to support their campus development.



Both college districts are pursuing their own facilities solutions to accommodate increasing enrollment. Why do their responses differ and why might other community college districts follow the lead of one over the other? The answer to this question has many layers. The districts share the common goal to best serve their students within their funding capabilities.

The student base at LRCCD has unique requirements to provide training for economic industries in each county within its service area. Yolo County needs more chemical, biological and physical life science technicians that are not needed in the neighboring counties. Sacramento County's highest need is for trained technicians in the healthcare industry, while El Dorado County currently needs a large influx of

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Did You Know ...?

1. With 109 community colleges and 72 community college districts, The California Community College system is the largest system of higher education in the world, serving more than 2.5 million students.
2. The Los Angeles Community College District has had great success with “E-surplus”, its surplus auction website where it sells all of its outdated usable items. Nonprofit corporations and charities are given first opportunity to purchase and the processing, collection, and transport are paid for by private sector donations. All unsold items go to a Mexican rural education agency. No usable items go to the landfill.
3. Daylight Saving Time was instituted in the U.S. during WW1 to save energy in production by taking advantage of longer daylight hours. Beginning in 2007, the DST period will be extended by 4 weeks, beginning March 11th, and ending Nov. 4th. □

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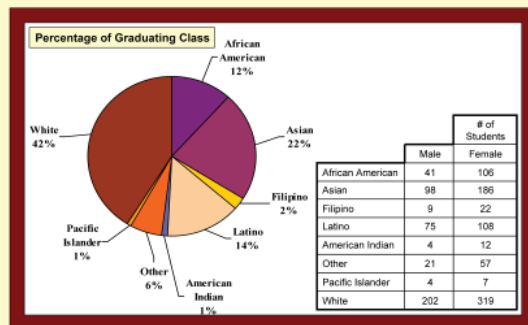
data technician training. With their existing four main campuses, LRCCD can provide specialized programs - certificates and degrees - focused upon the needs of each community as necessary. Their planned additional *learning centers* will help alleviate the overburden of general education caused by district-wide growth.



SCCD does not require as large of a diversity in their programs since their two counties, Nevada and Placer, support similar industries. The service, retail, construction and technical needs are basically on the same track in both counties. Although some of their individual campuses do offer specialized courses in the environment and the arts, their core curriculum is in unison and maintains the mission statement of the district to provide one college with coordinated programs and services.

Characteristics of Graduates

2004-05



Ethnic diversity and demographics between LRCCD and SCCD also vary substantially. SCCD has a consistency among their campuses and service areas, while LRCCD has a greater diversity within and between their campuses. SCCD has a higher population of white students than is typical for California and while this is changing, it is changing slowly. The student population age groups are also similar at most of the campuses within the SCCD. There is a strong showing in the 18-24 age group, primarily attending for a degree or transfer, and an equally strong showing of emeritus students who are interested in lifelong learning.

LRCCD does not have this consistency of ethnicity or age. The American River College (ARC) campus and Sacramento City College (Sac City) campus have a strong ethnic diversity on the campuses.

Cosumnes River College (CRC) has a wide range of ethnicity, but still is comprised of predominately white students. The El Dorado Center is predominately white with diversity in ethnic cultures being slow to move onto the campus. The diversity of ages also varies between campuses. ARC is the only campus that currently shows a strong emeritus student population with its proximity to a large senior community development. This diversity between student populations mirrors the diversity of the general population from which the College draws. The development of *learning centers* in specific regions allows these pockets of needs to be served individually with a more specialized focus.

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Together We Can Make a Difference

2006 Breast Cancer Walk

This year marked the 10th anniversary for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer-Sacramento Chapter walk. The 5K event began at the State Capitol, looped through Old Sacramento, the K Street Mall, and then back to the Capitol. Nationally, the event has been going on since 1993. Since that time, more than 3,000,000 people have participated in the event, helping to raise over \$194 million.

For the last four years, the staff at Murray & Downs has assembled a team to participate in the walk. This year, the event was held on October 22 and brought out more than 13,000 walkers, raising more than \$745,000. This money will be put toward research along with campaigns designed to increase awareness, provide patient support, public education, and advocacy toward a cure. □



Tidbit

(Internal Office Communications)

Purple Rain

More and more communities are considering installation of recycled water piping systems parallel with domestic water with the intent that landscape irrigation is provided by recycled water. So that the two systems don't get crossed in the field, all components of a recycled water system are the color purple (piping, valves, valve boxes, etc.). Remember to confirm with local Public Works departments to see if the regulation is already in place or being proposed and if your project will be impacted by it. It's a potentially costly item as one city's regulations, for instance, will require a double pipe irrigation system. Apparently, they are not convinced that they will be able to generate enough recycled water to meet the irrigation needs of the newly designated areas within the city. A double pipe system will require a control valving system that will allow one or the other systems to become the active system.

Staff News

Introducing Our New Staff:



Amber Brodie – Amber earned her Masters of Architecture degree at the University of Oregon. Before joining our firm, she spent two years working with TLC D Architecture in Santa Rosa. She has passed all of her written exams and will be eligible to take her oral exam in April of 2007. She has already proven to be talented, intuitive and efficient in her approach to our projects. We are very happy to introduce Amber Brodie and welcome her to our firm!



Marília Araujo – Marília joins us from Brazil where she is a certified and licensed architect. She has 10 years of experience in the architecture field. Her work in Brazil focused on urban planning, housing projects, retail, commercial and public use facilities. After a long visa process, we are happy to report that she was worth the wait! She is quick to understand our methods and demonstrates her experience through her participation in the design process. Welcome Marília!



Nicholas Collins – Nick is our Jr. Intern. He is in his senior year at Union Mine High School and is also involved in the ROP Architecture program. Nick is interested in a career in architecture and we are happy to provide his first exposure to the industry. Nick helps in the areas of submittals, copying drawings, archiving, filing and many other tasks that come up. We are happy to have Nick be a part of our team!



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Growing Pains

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While funding and demographic factors certainly contribute to the decisions in each district's long-range planning, the answer seems to be primarily one of scale. The total population served in the primary tri-county area of 3,690 square miles for LRCCD will be 2,202,803 in the year 2015. However, most of these people are in Sacramento County and the district is finding it difficult to serve this concentrated population in their four existing colleges located in Sacramento County. To continue to build full-service colleges that are this close together is not feasible. By introducing the *learning center* concept, which reduces the number and length of trips for the majority of the students, LRCCD has provided the greatest benefit for the community at large. In fact, LRCCD was awarded the Sacramento Area Coalition of Government (SACOG) award for this concept - recognizing its benefit to the community and air quality.

Sierra Community College District



SCCD, on the other hand, is projected to serve a population of only 486,852 by the year 2015, spread out over 2,362 square miles of a more rural and varied region. In this situation, it makes the most economic sense for the district to build comprehensive colleges that can draw from as large a population base as possible. SCCD focuses on frequent student-faculty contact to enrich the learning experience with more personalized faculty involvement and lower student to faculty ratios.

As each district continues to grow, their plans may significantly change. LRCCD may see population in Sacramento County continue to grow at such a rate that some of these educational centers, which are currently capped for no further growth, will need to grow to handle the continuing influx of students. SCCD may see enough population growth in other segments of the Sierras to warrant development of learning centers rather than continued focus on comprehensive campuses. For now, however, both districts have analyzed their funding, demographic, and geographic information and have developed successful programs providing their respective students the best educational facilities possible. □