

January 15, 2010

Ron Diedrich
Acting Director
Department of General Services
Executive Office
PO Box 989052
West Sacramento, CA 95798-9052

Dear Mr. Diedrich:

We are writing on behalf of the Coast Community College District and Orange Coast College urging you to **reject** the auction bid submitted by Craig Realty to purchase the Orange County Fairgrounds.

The final bid amount of \$56.5 million is well below the state's projected sale price. This amount of money for 150 acres of prime land is disappointing at best and does not provide nearly enough revenue to the state to help with the current budget crisis. This one-time revenue will provide less than one-half of 1% of the state's current annual structural budget deficit and forever negatively impacts our community.


The OC Fairgrounds sits on land that was a former United States Army air base. In 1949, the land was purchased by the state and divided for **public use** as the county's fairgrounds and a community college (Orange Coast College). Without the OC Fairgrounds, Orange Coast College will lose many services and have to spend millions to develop parking accommodations for over 2,000 students per day. Given the state's fiscal crisis, this will be devastating to our colleges and have a direct impact on the services that we will be able to offer to our students.

The OC Fairgrounds were sold by the federal government with the intention of serving the people of the state of California, not to be sold to the highest bidder. For the sake of our students and the residents of Orange County, who will gain nothing from this sale, please reject the bid from Craig Realty, and return OC Fairgrounds to the people of Orange County. If the bid is not rejected by the state then we request that the state not preempt the City of Costa Mesa's zoning and land use powers in an attempt to increase the value of the property.

Sincerely,



Jerry M. Patterson
President, Board of Trustees



Ding-Jo H. Currie, Ph.D.
Chancellor

/ns

Coastline Community College

Golden West College

Orange Coast College

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