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## **NEWS**

### **Coast Community College District Board Opposes Sale of OC Fairgrounds**

The Coast Community College District Board of Trustees passed a resolution at their December 13 special meeting opposing the sale of the Orange County Fair and Events Center (OCFEC) in Costa Mesa, Cal.

“Governor Schwarzenegger needs to know that this proposal to sell the OC Fairgrounds is shortsighted,” said Board President Jerry Patterson. “Orange Coast College and the Coast District have a long history with the OCFEC,” Trustee Patterson continued. “The sale will have a direct negative impact on our students and our educational programs. The Coast District along with our entire county will face a huge loss that will only benefit Sacramento’s coffers, not ours.”

The resolution cited “irreplaceable benefits” and a “devastating impact” upon the students that attend Orange Coast College. “We partner on many educational programs and share facilities with the OCFEC,” stated Chancellor Ding-Jo Currie. “We have already made severe cuts due to the budget problems in Sacramento. This would dissolve our long-standing partnership with OCFEC without giving thought to the impact on our students and our local community. We must figure out a way to ensure that this does not happen.”

The resolution went on to state that if it continues despite demands to stop the sale from this Board, the Associated Students of Orange Coast College, the City of Costa Mesa and the County of Orange, the Board will look into the formation of a Joint Power Authority with the County of Orange and the City of Costa Mesa in order to purchase the OCFEC and to save these programs and services. “We hope the state will stop trying to balance their budget on the backs of our students,” Trustee Patterson continued. “The state economy is dismal, but our colleges have already absorbed and are being asked to take more budget cuts. Sacramento needs to figure out how to solve some of these problems without destroying our colleges.”

“The State needs to do the right thing and cancel the sale,” Chancellor Currie said. “But, if it does not, the Coast District is prepared to fight for continued educational opportunities and programs for our students and our community.”

The Coast Community College District is headquartered in Costa Mesa and is the ninth largest district in the country. The District’s three colleges - Coastline Community College in Fountain Valley, Golden West College in Huntington Beach and Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa - serve over 60,000 students each year providing traditional degree and transfer opportunities, career and technical training, basic skills, English as a Second Language and other community programs.

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