



Columbia College Starts First Measure E Bond Project

Modesto, California, January 13, 2006 – Construction on an emergency access road at Columbia College is scheduled to begin on January 23 and be completed by March 23 as the first of several Yosemite Community College District (YCCD) Measure E projects at the Sonora campus. Dun Rite Excavating, Inc., of Fremont, California is the project contractor.

The existing route is unimproved and only 12 feet wide at its widest point. It connects the west side of the Columbia College campus at Symons Field with Forest Park Drive, approximately 2,100 feet away. When completed, the new road will be 20 feet wide with turnouts, permanent drainage control and night reflectors.

There is currently only one road for traffic traveling on and off the campus, so the addition of an all-weather emergency access road that is capable of handling full-size fire vehicles with apparatus will be a great advantage in the event of a fire or any other disaster. It will be accessible only in the event of emergencies.

Also north of Symons Field at the base of the secondary access road, the college anticipates constructing a new parking lot to provide 76 more parking stalls with lighting.

In November 2004, voters in the YCCD approved a \$326 million general obligation bond for the repair, upgrade and new construction of Columbia College and Modesto Junior College facilities, along with the development of college education centers in Patterson, Oakdale, Turlock and Angels Camp.

Bond funds will be used over the next 10 to 12 years to improve campus safety; renovate classrooms, laboratories and career/technology centers; improve technology infrastructure; and repair overcrowded and deteriorating buildings as identified in the YCCD Facilities Master Plan. A 14-member citizens' oversight committee was appointed by the YCCD Board of Trustees to ensure that bond proceeds are used in accordance with Measure E.

More information about Measure E can be found online at www.yosemite.edu/bond/.

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