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NEWS

Coast Trustees Urge Support of Governor’s Tax Initiative

Costa Mesa, Cal. –Trustees of the Coast Community College District passed a resolution in support of Governor Jerry Brown’s proposed tax initiative slated for inclusion on the November ballot.

“The passage of the measure in November is especially critical to Coast Colleges. The ballot measure entitled ‘Temporary Taxes to Fund Education, Guarantee Local Public Safety Funding Initiative Constitutional Amendment’ will offset an additional \$8.2 million in anticipated cuts to our District,” stated Board President Jim Moreno. “In the past three years, we have already been hit with over \$20 million in cuts. If this measure does not pass, the outcome is unthinkable,” Moreno noted.

“When the economy is bad, it is our job to help the community get back to work and the demand for our classes and services has sharply increased. Couple that with students getting shut out of California State Universities and University of California schools and we have more students than we can effectively serve and less funding to serve them,” Moreno said.

“Our teachers have been adding extra students to their classes for years, our staff will be taking pay cuts and we continue to make cuts,” Moreno stated. “It is still not enough. If this measure fails, we will be forced to slash programs, classes, services and staff.”

“On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I urge you to consider the true impact of this measure,” Moreno told the audience. “Our colleges have been cut to the bone and

we need the support of our community to continue to be able to provide educational opportunities.”

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Attention Editors: Full text of the resolution is below.

The Coast Community College District is comprised of Coastline Community College headquartered in Fountain Valley, Golden West College in Huntington Beach and Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa.



**Board of Trustees' Resolution Supporting Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.'s
"Temporary Taxes to Fund Education. Guaranteed Local Public Safety
Funding. Initiative Constitutional Amendment." Proposed Ballot Initiative**

WHEREAS, the State of California remains mired in a moribund economy with double digit unemployment and a very weak housing market; and

WHEREAS, according to the California Legislative Analyst, the State Legislature has reduced spending for California Community Colleges by approximately \$700 million over the last three fiscal years, resulting in a statewide enrollment decline of approximately 300,000 students; and

WHEREAS, the Coast Community College District has reduced its current budget by tens of millions of dollars over the last three fiscal years to address repeated fiscal challenges, while still offering thousands of seats to students above its funding allocation; and

WHEREAS, Coast Community College District has been forced to raise student fees and tuition from \$600 annually in 2008-09 to \$1,380 for the 2012-13 school year, due to persistent budget shortfalls at the State level, hurting students and forcing large numbers to attend courses via Board of Governors' Waiver remedies; and

WHEREAS, the Coast Community College District has lost over 200 faculty and staff members in the last three years due to attrition, and a strict hiring freeze as a result of its budget difficulties; and

WHEREAS, the students of the Coast Community College District are having their dreams, aspirations and life plans delayed due to fewer course offerings at all three colleges in the District; and

WHEREAS, due to budget cuts in other segments of higher education, many campuses in the California State University System are freezing enrollments in the Fall 2012 semester due to the failure of the State Legislature, adversely impacting Coast Colleges' students seeking transfer to the California State University system; and

WHEREAS, the current level of revenues at the state level are not sufficient to meet the needs of public education throughout California;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees of the Coast Community College District supports the passage of the "Temporary Taxes to Fund Education. Guaranteed Local Public Safety Funding. Initiative Constitutional Amendment." which will mitigate the approximate \$8.2 million in anticipated cuts to the Coast Community Colleges under current budget conditions for Fiscal Year 2012-13.