

# CITIZENS FOR A COLLEGE CAMPUS IN LODI

October 8, 2015

Mr. Steven Castellanos, Board President, San Joaquin Delta College  
Dr. Kathy Hart, Superintendent, San Joaquin Delta College  
5151 Pacific Ave.  
Stockton, CA. 95207

Dear Dr. Hart and Mr. Castellanos,

This letter is a request to respond to questions and concerns about the process to select a site and build a facility for the North Campus of San Joaquin Delta College in Lodi. As you know this facility was one of the promised Measure L projects that was passed by the voters in 2004. The Citizens for a College Campus in Lodi, a community group of volunteers and leaders from our community, have been working with the college for over two years to plan and eventually build a post-secondary facility in Lodi that will better serve our students and businesses.

Last fall the committee felt that some progress was being made toward the goal of establishing a satellite campus as was promised by past Boards, Measure L and the San Joaquin Delta College Facilities Master Plan. We attended board meetings and met with you on several occasions. We have worked together to reinstate a budget of \$15 million from Measure L funds for a start-up site and campus. Our members have given the college professional advice on the future of the "Farm to Fork" initiatives in our region, on the employment needs for a trained work force in the wine and food industry, and on model agriculture education programs in Northern California. We assisted the college in finding suitable sites for the regional center. Finally, we gave

comment on a process that you put into action to examine sites that would be suitable for this project. Several owners of property, four we believe, went to considerable time and expense to submit proposed sites to the college in response to your Request for Proposals.

Our committee has significant concerns about the failure of the administration and board to follow its own timelines. Originally, on October 21, 2014 in a report to the Board, the administration put forward a process that would examine suitable locations for a regional center and complete a site selection process with board action at the June 16, 2015 regular Board Meeting. This proposed process was designed to present findings on community proposed properties and a site owned by the college on Liberty Road to the Trustees in closed session by April 1, 2015. This timeline was delayed until June 2015. June passed and there was no explanation as to why the board and administration had failed to meet its delayed timeline other than that it was taking longer than anticipated to assess the Liberty Road property.

At the July 2015 Board meeting we asked for an explanation as to why the administration had delayed their process and requested that the college inform the public as to what the new timeline would be for the site selection process. We expressed deep concern over the delay. We have received no response to our questions other than that the assessment of the Liberty Road property is taking longer than anticipated and a statement that there will be a workshop on the topic in November. Currently, the board and administration are six months behind the original timeline and it appears that there is no new schedule to determine a location for the North Regional Center.

We, the Citizens for a College Campus in Lodi, are requesting that the board and administration respond in writing to the following questions:

1. What are your short-term and long-term plans for serving Lodi-area students?

2. Are the Board and administration committed to planning and building a regional north center as promised by previous boards and administrations, and described in past facility master plans?
3. Why was the site selection process stopped or delayed with little or no explanation?
4. Is the administration currently examining the properties that have been submitted during the RFP process last spring? If so, what is the current status of the assessment of these properties?
5. Is there still \$15 million in funds from Measure L committed to a regional north center?
6. What is the new timeline for determining a location for the regional north center?

The voters of north region and especially the Lodi community should be able to expect responses to these reasonable questions in a timely manner. In our opinion it is not acceptable for the public to be promised a fair and forthright process for a site selection and then have it stopped with little or no public explanation from the board of trustees. Our community group is committed to continue to work cooperatively with the college in the development of a north regional center in Lodi. It is also the intention of our group to meet with the Chancellor's Office, as well as other agencies and entities, regarding a Lodi college campus and the appropriate use of the promised Measure L funds. A written response to our questions by October 22, 2015 is respectfully requested. To expedite the process, please email your response to [williamhuyett@sbcglobal.net](mailto:williamhuyett@sbcglobal.net). Thank you for your attention to our request.

Sincerely yours,

*Nanette Green and William Huyett*

Co-Chairpersons, Citizens for a College campus in Lodi

