RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
PLANNING COMMITTEE

Report No.: VI-C-7 Date: June 16, 2009

Subject: Moreno Valley Science Laboratories Remodel Project

Background: The future Health Science building, which will house additional lab space for biology, microbiology, anatomy and chemistry, is not yet approved by the State and would not be built for another 5-9 years. Given its Health Science orientation, the Campus cannot wait for those labs to come online in order to address concerns with existing lab space. These concerns revolve around the functionality and sufficiency of laboratory space. The Moreno Valley Campus proposes to address these concerns in two phases.

First, the Campus is requesting that $500,000 be allocated from Measure “C” funds to assess, plan and begin work to rectify these concerns. It is anticipated that this budget would cover the costs for planning and design for both phases of the project. The Campus has selected Steinberg Architects for this work, but a contract has not yet been prepared at the time of this writing.

The first phase would be focused on the more immediate functionality concerns and would address various storage, access, health and safety issues. It is critical that the District move expeditiously toward resolving these concerns to ensure that students’ laboratory experiences are optimized. Phase I has been endorsed by both the Campus Strategic Planning Committee and the District Strategic Planning Committee.

Regarding Phase II, our science classes are impacted, as evidenced by waiting lists of 200 to 400 students trying to enroll in them. In addition, the Moreno Valley Campus does not have a dedicated physics lab. This hinders enrollment management and constrains health sciences and transfer programs as well as new program development. The Moreno Valley Campus is therefore proposing an expansion and modernization of these labs in Phase II. A proposal regarding this matter will be brought by the Campus to the August Board meeting for the Board’s review and consideration.

Recommended Action: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve use of $500,000 in Measure “C” funds for Phase I of the project as described above, and authorize the Vice Chancellor, Administration and Finance, to sign related contracts.

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