

November 3 ballot will include statewide school bond measure

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NOVEMBER 3 BALLOT WILL INCLUDE STATEWIDE SCHOOL BOND MEASURE

A statewide bond measure that would provide \$9.2 billion to strengthen, repair and build public education facilities in California including a number of projects at the University of California, San Diego will go before California voters on the November 3 ballot.

The measure, Proposition 1A, designates \$6.7 billion of the total to construct and renovate K-12 schools. The state's three segments of public higher education the University of California, the California State University and the Community College system would equally share the remaining \$2.5 billion in bond funds. No new taxes will be necessary to finance the measure.

At UCSD, Proposition 1A funding would build laboratory and instructional infrastructure needed to educate a student population that is expected to increase by 25 percent over the next six years.

Among UCSD projects proposed for Prop. 1A funding is a new building for the natural sciences departments of Biology, Chemistry/Biochemistry and Physics. The proposed structure includes teaching laboratories, research laboratories and office space, bringing together biologically oriented disciplines to promote interdisciplinary collaboration among students, researchers and faculty. The Division of Natural Sciences already is the single largest teaching and research entity on the general campus at UCSD, with undergraduate majors in the division representing 40 percent of the campus total.

Another proposed campus project includes classrooms, laboratories and offices for Eleanor Roosevelt College, UCSD's newest undergraduate colleges. The program and design of the proposed facilities is planned to reinforce the mission of UCSD's undergraduate colleges and ERC's international focus. The proposed site is located near a number of programs that emphasize international studies, including the Institute of the Americas and the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies.

Also earmarked for funds under Proposition 1A is a new engineering building to house classes, research laboratories and support offices for the School of Engineering, which is expected to undergo tremendous growth in undergraduate and graduate enrollment well into the next decade. In particular, programs in bioengineering and applied structural and computer engineering are expected to be in high demand and will require additional facilities space.

UC President Richard C. Atkinson has noted that "this bond measure is crucial to the University of California's efforts to accommodate rapidly growing enrollments. Our needs are urgent, and this measure is an absolutely vital means of addressing them."

Proposition 1A also is supported by the UC Board of Regents and has attracted broad-based support from other such organizations as the California Taxpayers Association, the California Chamber of Commerce and the Congress of California Seniors.

The ballot pamphlet argument opposing Proposition 1A was signed by People's Advocate Inc., the National Tax Limitation Committee and Assemblyman Tom McClintock, who maintain that the measure is too large and will obligate too much of the state budget for debt service.

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