



"Citrus Capital of the World"

City of Santa Paula

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October 18, 2022

Ventura County Community College District
Attn: Ventura College Academic Senate Council
761 E Daily Drive
Camarillo, CA 93010

Dear Ventura College Academic Senate Council:

On behalf of the City of Santa Paula, I write to express our support for the VC Major Initiative: Property Acquisition in the Santa Clara River Valley at the Ventura College Academic Senate Council Meeting on October 20, 2022.

Santa Paula has many challenges because of the inability of many households to earn a living wage. Families are less able to be completely self-reliant and must compromise by doubling up in housing, going without medical care, forgoing higher education, etc., and the data from the 2020 Census affirms this.

Higher education has historically been important in opening a path to successful families and access to higher education is critical to educational achievement. Santa Paula has had a satellite of the Ventura College campus for over 30 years, yet during recessions and State budget crises, the satellite campus suffered in order to maintain the level of service on the main campus. Full-time equivalent students (FTEs) have dropped dramatically at a time when enrollment should logically be expected to increase. And while an impressive number of Santa Paula students attend the main campus, many do so at considerable personal sacrifice. There is bus service available from Santa Paula with one transfer, but travel time means students from the valley as a whole are at a distinct disadvantage when compared to other students.

In 2002, voters approved a bond for the Ventura County Community College District. The bond was approved with the promise that an advanced education center would be built in Santa Paula with a portion of the bond proceeds. However, years later, that promise has not materialized until now.

Lastly, one of City Council's 2-Year Strategic Plan objectives, in part, is to actively engage with the Community College District to provide and improve educational opportunities for our community.

For these reasons, the City of Santa Paula urges the Ventura College Academic Senate to vote YES on the VC Major Initiative: Property Acquisition in the Santa Clara River Valley.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Crosswhite", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jenny Crosswhite
Mayor
City of Santa Paula

Cc: City Council
City Manager