

Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure J

Measure J is a massive tax that won't improve student success. **Vote NO on Measure J.**

Local college students deserve a good education. We support Merced College's mission to provide that education.

We believe Fresno, Madera, and Merced county citizens have a right to know how Measure J will support student success **before spending an estimated \$617 million over 40 years.**

And citizens should know how their tax dollars are being spent.

The college declares that "classrooms, science labs, and job training facilities were built over 40 years ago and are deteriorating and need repair." Are Merced College students really studying in moldy classrooms with leaky roofs? We believe the college is overstating the case.

Voters approved a Merced College bond in 2002. The college neglects to mention that this bond paid for the renovation of these older buildings, such as the science and communication buildings. **AND, Merced College has many new buildings,** including a library and health sciences center.

Measure J will fund the college's facilities master plan, which calls **for a complete redesign of the Merced College campus.** Measure J allows the college to demolish about 20 buildings and other structures. Some, such as the gymnasium, will be rebuilt only a few hundred yards from the original site. The plan calls for more new buildings, including dormitories!

Merced College's student enrollment has declined for years. The college still has more than \$15 million left in its 2002 bond. **Why is the college asking taxpayers for more money without providing a compelling reason to vote for Measure J?**