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Board of Trustees
Los Angeles Community College District
770 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Northeast Satellite Campus of
LACC at Van de Kamps Bakery

October 11, 2010

Dear Board Members:

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations goes on record in its opposition to efforts of the Los Angeles Community College District's Board and staff to convert the \$72 million voter-approved bond-financed Northeast Satellite Campus of Los Angeles City College into a profit-making leased facility of the District Administration.

The District's Board asked voters three times to approve a total of \$5.7 billion of bond capital funds to improve and construct new educational facilities throughout the Los Angeles County service area of the community college. It appears that these promises are being delivered except in the Northeast Los Angeles area – an area also served by the Federation.

In 2001, the LACCD Board voted to use State funds to purchase the former Van de Kamps Bakery in order to establish a northeast outreach satellite campus for Los Angeles City College. In two of the three bond issues approved by voters, the LACCD Board promised to spend more than \$60 million in bond funds allocated for this purpose and such language was inserted into key District documents. Press releases by the District's Board pointed to studies showing that the Northeast Los Angeles community was grossly underserving Latino students who were culturally and transportation isolated from Los Angeles City College.

At ground-breaking ceremonies for the construction of the Northeast Campus Satellite, Trustee Sylvia Scott Hayes cited statistics of the low numbers of students from Eagle Rock and Franklin High Schools that matriculate at Los Angeles City College. Trustee Mona Field cited studies showing great demand for both academic and community education classes in the underserved Northeast area.

After years of planning by Los Angeles City College faculty members, records of the District show that Administrators used the State's budget crisis as a pretense to seize control of the Northeast Campus from City College. Instead of following plans to open the Van de Kamps Satellite of City College with 80% profit oriented classes and 20% traditional academic classes that would cover the operating costs, District administrators told the public that the State budget woes prevented the campus from opening as originally planned. These claims are not supported by the District's own financial feasibility study for Van de Kamps.

Bel Air Knolls Property Owners
Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners
Bel Air Ridge Association
Benedict Canyon Association
Cahuenga Pass Neighborhood
Crests Neighborhood Assn.
Encino Property Owners Assn.
Forrest Hills Homeowners Assn.
Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. West
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Highlands Owners Assn.
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.
Hollywood Heights Assn.
Hollywoodland Homeowners
Holmby Hills Homeowners Assn.
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn
La Tuna Canyon Community Assn.
Laurel Canyon Assn.
Los Feliz Improvement Assn.
Mt. Olympus Property Owners
Mt. Washington Homeowners All.
Nichols Canyon Assn.
N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon
Oak Forest Canyon Assn.
Outpost Estates Homeowners
Residents of Beverly Glen
Roscomare Valley Assn.
Shadow Hills Property Owners
Sherman Oaks H O Assn.
Studio City Residents Assn.
Tarzana Property Owners Assn.
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Upper Mandeville Canyon
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

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The District's Board could open the Northeast Campus, it simply refuses to do so.

Instead, the \$72 million of California and local taxes taken from the people is being used to create a profit-making facility of unrelated uses to put rental income into the General Fund. Half of the Satellite campus has been leased to a charter high school – a use never approved by voters. Even more offensive, records show District administrators destroyed planned community college classrooms in the historic Van de Kamps Bakery Building in a scheme to turn most of that building into office space for City of Los Angeles-funded unemployment programs. The voters of Los Angeles in approving the bonds for these schools did not approve real estate speculation as an authorized use of their hard earned taxes.

The District has committed an ill-conceived bait-and switch in the use of bond funds that will not go unnoticed by the hundreds of thousands of homeowner-taxpayers represented by the Federation. We expect the taxes paid by our members to be used as promised by the Board to the voters. The actions at Van de Kamps, which ignore the chartered mission of the community college district, evidence a misuse of taxes entrusted to the District.

Gifted and young high school graduates of the Northeast, particularly those of Latino and Filipino ethnic groups, are being ignored and disrespected by the failure of Los Angeles City College to open its Northeast Campus to serve their documented educational needs. The LACCD is literally denying educational opportunity to the minority communities of the Northeast it is obligated to serve.

We have been informed that LACCD is now issuing press releases highlighting a claim it is offering academic classes at this site. But those in the know have demonstrated to us that the District is offering the equivalent of one academic class per day in a school facility built and intended to offer up to 100 classes per day. The District cannot cover up its betrayal of the voters and youth of the community with the offer of a single class per day. That is not what the voters intended in entrusting the District with \$72 million in tax funds.

A Board of Trustees that makes promises to the voters in exchange for taxes must deliver on those promises. We urge the Board to immediately reverse its current direction in trying to convert the Northeast Campus into a profit-making center for the District's General Fund.

Sincerely,

Marian Dodge, President