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News Release March 24, 2015 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Kai Stearns Moore, 714-808-4829 (<u>kstearnsmoore@nocccd.edu</u>)

OFFICIAL VICTORY FOR NOCCCD'S MEASURE J

Anaheim, Calif. –The Orange County Superior Court Judge's ruling to unequivocally uphold the voters' approval of Measure J officially stands, now that a fully executed stipulation has been signed. The plaintiff, Charles R. Clough, waived his right to appeal the Judge's ruling, and the North Orange County Community College District (NOCCCD) and its co-defendants, the Los Angeles Office of the Registrar and the Orange County Office of the Registrar, waived their rights to costs incurred.

"This is fantastic news for our District," said NOCCCD Interim Chancellor Fred Williams. "We can finally put the election contest behind us and focus our efforts on planning in order to run an efficient and transparent bond program. The Board of Trustees and I look forward to working with staff, students, and the community."

The Honorable Franz E. Miller of the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Orange, released his Statement of Decision earlier this month in regards to the lawsuit contesting the election result for Measure J, NOCCCD's facilities bond measure.

Measure J was passed by a supermajority (55%) of the voters in the District on November 4, 2014. A lawsuit was brought against the District and the two Registrars after the election results were certified. Plaintiff Charles R. Clough contested the election result, arguing that illegal votes were cast and there were errors in the election and canvassing of returns, as well as the summation of ballot counts. In his Statement of Decision, Judge Miller wrote: "The Contestant (Clough) failed to carry his burden to prove the alleged defects by clear and convincing evidence...(the evidence) fails to make a prima facie showing of illegal ballots, because the testimony lacks sufficient specificity and lacks corroborating physical evidence. And even assuming the ballots identified were illegal, Contestant fails to show that if those ballots were deducted that the modified totals would change the elections results."

Measure J will provide \$574 million to NOCCCD for critical facilities needs such as upgrades to

antiquated science labs, lecture halls, and classrooms, as well as technology and infrastructure to better prepare

students for growing fields of study and high-skill careers, and expansions of veterans' resource centers to train

and re-train veterans as they transition into the civilian workforce. Facility renovations will happen on each of

the District's three campuses: Fullerton College, Cypress College and the School of Continuing Education.

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NOCCCD: Greatness. Achieved.

Two of the state's premiere colleges and one of its most extensive continuing education programs combine to provide the quality educational programming of the North Orange County Community College District (NOCCCD). Nearly 64,000 students enroll each term at Cypress College, Fullerton College, and the School of Continuing Education. Our college students are able to shape their futures in programs leading to associate degrees, vocational certificates, and transfer opportunities. Lifelong learning also is possible in our continuing education programs that range from high school completion and basic skills mastery through an array of vocational training and self-development courses. The NOCCCD campuses and programs serve an area of over one million diverse people.