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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

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December 5, 2013

Hon. Shawn Dewane
Orange County Water District
ASSMSILVA SIG2
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Subject: Opposition to the Proposed Ball Road Basin Power Plant
Orange County Water District Board Meeting, December 9, 2013

Dear President Dewane and Board Members,

As state legislators representing Orange County, we urge the Orange County Water District Board of Directors to reject a proposal to construct a power plant on a District-owned, twenty acre surplus property in Anaheim.

The property, known as the Ball Road Basin, represents one of the last remaining vacant parcels in the heart of Orange County. With many residential neighborhoods nearby, the public's interests must be paramount in any future development of this property. In addition, the proposed 300-600 megawatt power plant would negatively impact nearby entertainment and commercial businesses. Ultimately, the power plant provides no direct benefits to the residents of Anaheim, whose city owns its own electric utility and recently built a power plant in an industrial area a few miles away.

We agree there is a need to develop new sources of power to support our state's population growth. However, a power plant located at the Ball Road Basin is the wrong solution.

Our constituents have made their opposition to the power plant loud and clear. Supporting this proposal will simply result in an unnecessary and drawn-out public battle over the project.

The Orange County Water District should reject the power plant and continue discussions with the City of Anaheim on a mutually beneficial use of the surplus property. By denying this proposal, the Orange County Water District can better attend to its primary mission of providing reliable, high quality groundwater to customers in northern and central Orange County.

Sincerely,

Tom Daly

Tom Daly
State Assemblymember, 69th District

Donald P. Wagner

Donald P. Wagner
State Assemblymember, 68th District

Sharon Quirk-Silva

Sharon Quirk-Silva
State Assemblymember, 65th District

Bob Huff

Bob Huff
State Senator, 29th District

Lou Correa

Lou Correa
State Senator, 34th District

Diane L. Harkey

Diane L. Harkey
State Assemblymember, 73rd District

Travis Allen

Travis Allen
State Assemblymember, 72nd District

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SAM GANGWER, ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Student veterans share a laugh with **Jack Williams**, left, a Marine who is now a law student at UC Irvine, during a discussion of their experiences at California's community colleges during last week's conference at the Newport Beach Marriott Hotel. Next to Williams are, from left: Jocelyn Vizcarra, Tom Boscamp, Jacob Lampe and moderator Dr. David Joseph, a clinical psychologist and team leader of the Oakland Vet Center.

Vets in college on rise, prompting discussion

Newport Beach summit addresses need for more services to help those in state's two-year schools.

NEWPORT BEACH • Bracing for an increase in veterans looking to spend their benefits on higher education, administrators from California community colleges gathered here last week to swap ideas for the services veterans need.

The third annual Veterans Summit kicked off with a panel of student veterans. They set the tone for the approximately 500 administrators in attendance, sharing what has worked in their education and what hasn't.

One of those students, Jacob Lampe, attends Saddleback College in Mission Viejo. He and other students there said the needs for student veterans differ vastly compared with civilian students. For one, military benefits make a complicated financial aid system even more complicated. But the biggest challenge for Lampe was the transition into civilian life through the community college system.

"I didn't think 18-, 19-, 20-year old students could intimidate me so much," he said of his classmates at Saddleback, where he enrolled after his time in the Marine Corps. "But stepping into the classroom after five years was challenging. My readjustment into the classroom environment was one of the hardest parts."

Lampe has joined about 44,000 other veterans attending California's com-

munity colleges (based on 2011-12 data). The number has grown significantly the past several years as veterans eligible for post-9/11 GI benefits look for affordable education options.

At Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, for example, the number of veterans jumped from 351 in the 2008-09 school year to 1,678 in the 2011-12 school year. In the same amount of time at Saddleback College, the number rose from 106 to 639 veterans. At Cypress College, there were 187 veterans in 2008 and 405 in 2011, according to data

"I didn't think 18-, 19-, 20-year old students could intimidate me so much. ... My readjustment into the classroom environment was one of the hardest parts."

JACOB LAMPE
STUDENT AT SADDLEBACK COLLEGE IN MISSION VIEJO

from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

Early projections from the Chancellor's Office suggest that the number will increase further in the coming years, said the office's Veteran Services specialist, David Lawrence, who added that the staffing and programs available at California's 112 community colleges may not suffice in the coming years as caseloads expand.

One service that has worked to provide services for veterans at colleges is Veterans Resource Centers. These centers provide academic counseling, veterans-only events and a

place for camaraderie among veterans. More than half of the colleges in the state system have them, Lawrence said.

But speakers and attendees at the conferences admitted they still have a lot of work to do before the veteran community has what it needs.

Mental health care is one example of this. Though the Department of Veterans Affairs provides free mental health services for veterans, veterans have been critical of the service's quality, said Lindsey Sin, deputy secretary for Women Veterans Affairs at the California Department of Veterans Affairs.

She said veteran-tailored mental health service is something colleges should work toward providing for their student veterans.

Another issue the administrators discussed was the challenges veterans often face transferring to four-year universities, said Terence Nelson, dean of transfer, career and special programs at Saddleback College.

He led a panel featuring representatives from the California State University and University of California systems, who gave the community college administrators advice on getting their student veterans into four-year universities.

Community colleges "are the big fire hose going into small garden hose," Nelson said of the influx of veterans looking to transfer to four-year community colleges.

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