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Proposition 55 Passes, Brings $71 Million in Direct Dollars to Central Coast

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly, Cuesta College, Allan Hancock College and K-12 schools on the Central Coast will all be able to remodel and replace decades-old classrooms and equipment thanks to the narrow passage of Proposition 55, the school building bond on Tuesday's ballot.

California Secretary of State Kevin Shelley reported this morning that votes from all precincts in California had been tabulated and that Proposition 55 was approved by a narrow margin, with 50.6 percent of the vote. Complete information, including a county-by-county breakdown, are available on the Secretary of State's web site at: http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections.htm.

"We are very grateful to the voters of the State of California for recognizing the need to bring our schools up-to-date and invest in the students of today and tomorrow," said Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker. "The 'yes' vote on Proposition 55 should also help the local economy. Proposition 55 will bring more than $71 million in direct dollars to the Central Coast, and the UC Santa Barbara economic forecast project has estimated that this figure should translate to a boost of some $200 million for the local economy," Baker said.

For Cal Poly, approval of Proposition 55 means the university will receive more than $35 million in funding, including more than $28 million in construction money for a new building to house architecture and construction management programs, $5.3 million for equipment for a new engineering building that begins construction this summer, and $1 million for design of a new science and mathematics building.

"The real beneficiaries are, of course, the students, because they will get to move out of classrooms built in the 1940s, 50s and 60s into
classrooms with wiring and technology to support the level of instruction expected today,” said Baker.

For details on what projects Proposition 55 will fund on the Central Coast, visit the Cal Poly News web site at:
http://www.calpolynews.calpoly.edu/prop55.html.

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