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SDCCD nearing completion on \$1.6B of campus projects

District receives perfect score for transparency of its bond program

By Thor Kamban Biberman
Daily Transcript Staff Writer

The San Diego Community College District was the largest community college district in San Diego County to receive a perfect bond transparency score from the San Diego County Taxpayer's Education Foundation.

The perfect score comes as the district, which consists of 100,000 annual students, is nearing the end of construction funded by the Proposition S and N bond programs.

The taxpayer foundation's 2018 School Bond Transparency summary report concluded that the San Diego Community Col-
See Page 6 — SDCCD



Photo courtesy of San Diego Community College District
A rendering of the new Fine Arts building at Mesa College. The four-story, 26,500-square-foot building will provide modernized facilities and equipment for programs in drawing, painting, photography, sculpting and ceramics. It is part of \$1.6 billion of development and renovation going on at San Diego Community College District campuses.

San Ysidro PedEast facility now open

By Mark Armao
Daily Transcript Staff Writer

The roughly 20,000 people who walk across the U.S.-Mexico border from Tijuana to San Ysidro on an average day can expect shorter wait times following the opening of a new northbound pedestrian-processing facility at the San Ysidro Land Port of Entry, the busiest land-border crossing in the Western Hemisphere.

With 22 pedestrian lanes, the new PedEast facility will increase the inspection capacity of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which began operations in the 100,000-square-foot building last week.

The project is part of the \$741 million expansion of the port of entry, a multi-phase effort being overseen by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA).
See Page 3 — PEDEAST

Legislators hope to bypass \$331M debt payment

By Malcolm MacLachlan
Daily Journal Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO — Can California legislate its way out of a \$331 million court-ordered debt? That's what plaintiffs in a long-running legal case say Democratic lawmakers are trying to do with a pair of nearly-identical bills introduced this week.

SB 861 and AB 1829 appeared in print on Tuesday, about a month after an appeals court ruled the state illegally appropriated

money from a multi-million dollar mortgage settlement to pay off bonds and backfill the general fund.

Each bill passed its initial budget committee votes on Wednesday and Thursday, respectively, over Republican opposition.

Both "would provide legislative confirmation and ratification that allocations of funds from the National Mortgage Special Deposit Fund in the 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14 fiscal years were consistent with the direction given to the Director of Finance."

What this language means in practice is the state is seeking to circumvent a unanimous ruling issued last month by the 3rd District Court of Appeal. *National Asian American Coalition et al. v. Brown et al.*, 2018 DJDAR 6755 (Cal. App. 3rd Dist., July 10, 2018).

"Gov. [Jerry] Brown is being sneaky," said Faith Bautista, the coalition's president. "We've been waiting patiently since 2014. We went through the process and
See Page 6 — DEBT

INSIDE

On the Move	2
Poverty in California	3
Perspectives	4
Notices of Default	7
Trustee's Sales	7
Trustee's Deeds	8
Mechanics' Liens	8
Tax Liens	8
Judgments	9
Notices of Completion	9
New Homeowners	10

ON THE MOVE

SDG&E names chairman & CEO

Kevin Sagara will become chairman and CEO of San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), effective Aug. 25, Sempra Energy announced. He is currently president of Sempra Renewables and has worked for the Sempra Energy family of companies in a range of leadership roles for 22 years.



Miracle Babies names exec director

Jill Epstein has been named executive director of Miracle Babies, a nonprofit organization that provides financial and emotional support to families with critically ill babies in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

Previously, Epstein was executive director of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists.



for 22 years. Scott Drury will continue in his role as president of SDG&E and report to Sagara. Under Drury's leadership, SDG&E has become a national leader in providing clean, safe and reliable energy. Today, approximately 45 percent of the utility's power supplies are sourced from renewable energy.

Sagara, 57, helped Sempra Renewables grow to become one of the largest renewable energy companies in the U.S. Previously, from 2013 to 2014, he was vice president of renewables and corporate development for Sempra Energy's non-utility infrastructure development group. From 2010 to 2013, Sagara was vice president and general counsel in the infrastructure group.

Prior to that, for seven years, he served as vice president and associate general counsel, corporate and commercial law, for Sempra Energy.



SAGARA

Construction firm Gafcon names director of operations

Gafcon, Inc. recently promoted Fred Parker to director of operations, where he will pursue strategic growth initiatives, and process improvement and staff development. Parker will maintain his role on the \$450 million Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District bond program, which he has managed for the past two years.

The director of operations role was created to strengthen Gafcon's focus on effectively delivering projects for clients. Parker will work in the field to make sure that every Gafcon project is operating transparently and efficiently.

Along with chief operating officer Robin Duveen and vice president of operations Ron Takaki, Parker will help navigate and grow consulting services within Gafcon.



PARKER

Higgs Fletcher & Mack adds income partner, associate

The law firm of Higgs Fletcher & Mack recently added Allen Walburn as an income partner and Julie Dewberry as an associate to its San Diego office.

Walburn's experience includes a broad range of taxation matters, including international taxation, private equity fund, hedge fund and real estate fund formations and operations, and executive compensation.

He has negotiated tax aspects of numerous corporate and partnership transactions, and has experience in sales and use tax, property tax analysis and planning for business transactions.

Before joining Higgs Fletcher & Mack, Walburn practiced with a large California-based law firm and a Big 4 accounting firm. He serves on the executive committee of the State Bar's taxation section.

Dewberry, who joins the firm's trusts and estates practice group, is an estate planning and tax attorney who advises families, entrepreneurs and executives on the tax-efficient accumulation, preservation, and transfer of assets.

She is a member of the North County Estate Planning Council and Korean American Bar Association of San Diego. She also participates in The Prison Yoga Project. Dewberry received her J.D. from George Mason University School of Law with a tax law concentration.



WALBURN

She also served as the first chief operating officer of the California Massage Therapy Council, and was CEO of the Chartered Financial Analysts Society of Chicago, one of the world's largest financial analysts' society.

In addition to providing monetary support to needy families with babies in the NICU, Miracle Babies hosts "Miracle Hours" for NICU parents at local hospitals. These "Miracle Hours" provide a meal, crafts, and a brief opportunity to escape the isolation of the NICU. Miracle Babies also delivers the care bags each year to moms with babies in the NICU.

The 9th Annual Miracle Babies Gala will be held on October 20th at Rancho Valen and Spa, where proceeds will be raised to fund these essential programs.



EPSTEIN

Seltzer Caplan attorney earns specialist designation in family law

Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek attorney Marianne Barth has been certified as a specialist in family law by the State Bar of California's Board of Legal Specialization. The legal specialization program provides a rigorous process for attorneys to earn a certified specialist designation in 11 specialty areas of law.

To qualify for family law certification, an attorney must pass a comprehensive written examination testing his or her knowledge of family law, demonstrate broad-based and extensive practical litigation and settlement experience in the specialty, complete a higher requirement of continuing education hours in the specialty, and be vetted by and obtain favorable evaluations from attorneys and judges familiar with the attorney's work in family law.

Barth, who is of counsel, works with Lawyers Club of San Diego and with the city's Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force to reduce youth access to prescription medication.



BARTH

DuChâteau adds director of talent & culture

DuChâteau, which designs and manufactures luxury architectural finishes, has named Tawnya Arteaga as its first director of talent and culture. She will work to develop new programs that support the company's long-term growth plan and ensure it continues to offer a positive cultural experience for all employees.

Arteaga will oversee DuChâteau's human resources and talent acquisition functions, including recruiting and hiring, rewards and benefits programs, employee training and engagement, compliance and process optimization.

She has more than 20 years of experience in HR and talent development for public and private companies in multiple sectors, including banking and management consulting.

Arteaga previously served as the president and founder of Evolution HR Consulting, a management consulting firm that worked with businesses to strengthen their human resources and align performance with organizational goals.



ARTEAGA

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