

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0045  
(916) 319-2045  
FAX (916) 319-2145

Assembly  
California Legislature



KEVIN DE LEÓN  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FORTY-FIFTH DISTRICT

March 01, 2010

Hon. Mona Field, President and  
Members of the Board of Trustees  
c/o Dr. Tyree Wieder, Chancellor  
Los Angeles Community College District  
770 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 9001

**Subject: Los Angeles City College Northeast Los Angeles Satellite Campus**

Dear Ms. Field and Fellow Trustees:

Over the past months, I have met with constituents and neighbors of the Los Angeles City College (LACC) Northeast Los Angeles Satellite Campus. After hearing community concerns and after reviewing public records materials from the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) regarding the project I have several concerns.

The effort to save the Dutch Revival Van de Kamp's building in the community of Atwater Village has produced an important collaboration of the community, local and state government and the college district. Initial plans for adaptive reuse of the main building were complemented by new facilities to develop a Northeast Los Angeles Extension to LACC. A State budget appropriation was dedicated to the LACC satellite campus and Los Angeles voters approved bond funding to renovate, modernize and improve all nine colleges within the LACCD including the LACC satellite campus.

Senate Bill 1667 allocated \$3,000,000 to the District for the acquisition and development of a Los Angeles City College Atwater Village Satellite Center in 2000. Governor Gray Davis inserted requisites for the allocation that include: (1) the site must receive the requisite approvals for the satellite center from the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC); (2) the need for a satellite center must be justified and demonstrated to the Department of Finance (DOF); (3) the proposal submitted to the DOF must identify and demonstrate the programmatic need for the satellite center, the annual enrollment and full time equivalents served, the costs of the center both during development and (4) the submittal to DOF must demonstrate that the center will meet the programmatic needs of the district that cannot be accommodated in existing facilities and campuses in the district.

Last year LACCD announced it would not open the LACC Satellite Campus and that LACC would turn over the administration of the site to LACCD. I understand the full impact of the State Budget crisis on our community college system; however, the project has evolved from the planning and development of a satellite center campus to the leasing of space for a number of other uses including a

charter school, worksource center and other employment services. While the proposed tenants and services for the site are beneficial to the local region, a number of serious issues remain outstanding:

It is my understanding that a consultant was retained and paid to begin the center status application. My staff communicated with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's office to inquire about the application but was told that no application was ever submitted or advanced on behalf of the site. Center status is achievable once student enrollment levels are met and regional need is established. My office was notified by LACC President Jamilah Moore that the center status application encountered some difficulties with regional support and was therefore abandoned. Now both the center status designation effort and the development of a satellite campus have both ceased. Decision-making at this site has become unilateral and clarification is necessary to understand the process and continued development of this project.

During an April 27, 2009 community meeting both LACC President Moore and LACCD Deputy Chancellor Adriana Barrera announced the satellite campus and center status effort would resume in 5 years and that available space would be leased. That announcement, however, had no specific details or mention of SB1667 funding status.

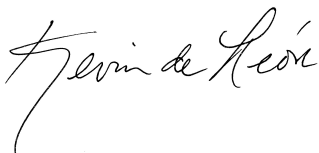
Failing to open the satellite campus and not pursuing the center status of the site is incompatible with existing legislative language and intent of SB 1667 and I am extremely concerned that the change of direction is jeopardizing those state funds.

I am requesting an explanation as to why the District abandoned its community collaboration and I am requesting an official response as to how commitments to a satellite campus will be restored including how SB1667 funding will be accessed.

As our State and Local budget issues challenge us, the core of the effort at the Van Kamp's site was to work in collaboration to find honest solutions in the best interests of the region. The directional changes at the Van de Kamp's site calls for the immediate revisiting of current development plans as well as a concretization of a legitimate program and effort to secure the outstanding budget allocation for the benefit of the local community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and please contact my office at (323) 225-4545 with any questions, responses or comments.

Sincerely,



**KEVIN DE LEON**  
**Assemblymember**  
**Forty Fifth Assembly District**