Q: WHAT'S OUR BEST INVESTMENT FOR BOND BALANCE?
AND, WHERE IS THE GREATEST NEED?

These are the tables currently used by students at the Pomo Cluster, IVC
Measure C Bond Balance:

Many positive transformations have been accomplished at both the Kentfield and Indian Valley Campus as a result of the Bond Measure and the exemplary COM leadership and Modernization Team. Now is a good time to pause and carefully consider the best possible return on investment for the few remaining dollars left from the Bond. It has always been evident that not everything necessary could be completed with the Measure C Bond funds. It’s especially important to make strategic decisions that prioritize the remaining funds. The success of this bond will likely drive the voters’ response to any future bond measures.

I. Reasons to dedicate more of the Bond Balance to IVC

A. North Marin voters rely on the stated Measure C commitments

The “Visioning Retreat” held in 2005 at IVC to determine stakeholder priorities agreed upon bookstore and coffee shop vendors, an amphitheater shared with the community, housing and other agreed-upon uses. The specific reason the Novato Fire Dept supported the Measure was due to their belief that the existing decaying wood roofs and siding on the Indian Valley Campus posed a fire hazard and would be repaired.

The Measure C bond title was actually “College of Marin Job Training, Classroom Preservation, Environmental, Safety Improvement Measure.” Therefore, Job Training, which is a specific function of IVC, was a lead issue presented to voters.

Among the stated bond projects that the voters approved for the College of Marin Indian Valley Campus:

- "Repair, Upgrade, Equip, and/or Replace Obsolete Classrooms, Science and Computer Labs, Instructional Facilities, Sites and Utilities; Meet Demands of Changing Workforce"

- Repair, upgrade and/or replace leaky roofs, decaying walls, old ceiling tiles and flooring, plumbing, sewer, drainage, electrical systems, wiring, unsanitary and run down bathrooms, heating, ventilation and cooling systems, telecommunications systems, classrooms, fields and grounds, library, science laboratories, lecture halls,
children's center and other instructional facilities; wire classrooms for computers and technology. **increase safety**, increase energy efficiency, acquire equipment, **reduce fire hazards**, reduce operating costs so more classes and job training can be offered, improve academic instruction, and **meet legal requirements for disabled access**.......

B. **The Indian Valley Campus is the only potential source of future increased revenue production for the entire College of Marin.**

Considering the lack of State support in our “basic aid” District, and our aging demographic, we have to look to more entrepreneurial ways of increasing revenues and students. The current exciting possibilities of hosting International Students, increased partnerships with local companies for skills training, initiating and expanding workforce training projects in emerging industries (such as what has already been successfully started in clean energy, organic farming, etc.), would all be based at the Indian Valley Campus. Also, the return of 2 yr AA degrees in Gen Ed and Business will add students!

C. **The SRJC Petaluma Campus is increasingly recruiting our Marin students.**

In Spring, 2012 approximately 60% of Petaluma Campus enrollments are from Southern Sonoma County and another 20% from Out-of-District, mostly Marin County. The SRJC website cites the specific zip code breakout of students, and reveals a rapidly growing figure of 1,453 Marin students attending junior college in Sonoma County rather than Marin!

The good news about that figure is that it proves that potential community college students do, in fact, exist in North Marin that we haven’t been able to yet attract. This is a lost opportunity for COM.

D. **ESL classes in North Marin are close to a population that needs the help.**

Very few ESL classes are offered at IVC in Novato where 21% of the residents are Hispanic, and that is projected to grow significantly.
E. NUSD is actively engaged in promoting dual enrollment, etc.

The Novato School Board is eager for closer partnering with COM in the areas of Student Success, Dual Enrollment, Regional grants, Vocational Pathways, etc.

F. North Marin is the home of the future employers in emerging technologies.

IVC’s proximity to the Buck Institute, and their proposed $60M BioScience Incubator, as well as to BioMarin and their 3 local spin-offs, make Novato an exceptional driver for life science jobs with their high-wage, high demand careers. Potential partners and funding—such as the California Community College Biological Technologies Initiative—could be created. These could potentially fund equipment, support student learning, and create paid internships. North Bay Leadership Council cites Education as their 1st priority.

G. We need the North Marin voters confidence prior to raising another Bond.

In the absence of more visible improvements, and the necessary marketing that showcases those improvements such as 1) lighting at night for safety 2) roofs that don’t leak on students and computers and 3) repairing and painting unsafe decks and handrails, **it is doubtful that North Marin voters would support another bond measure.**

II. The Current Bond Balance:

The current Bond balance only sets out $2.3 M in funds dedicated to IVC, however the following sources could still be allocated to fund the improvements described here that are essential for IVC’s functionality.

- $4.3 M—Remaining from the original $10 M in reserves that had been dedicated to ADA, which is entirely within Board discretion;
- $5.8 M—Defunding of the Austin Science Center based on de-commissioning Austin until 2015 while retaining Austin parking

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$10.1 M — These remaining funds could make substantial functional and aesthetic improvements at our Indian Valley Campus!
III. Some Proposed Re-Allocation of Bond Balance Funds:

The dangerous handrails and decks in the Pomo cluster and elsewhere are substantially out of ADA compliance, unsightly as well as hazardous...

The leaking roofs at the Career Study Center Open Lab for IVC, the Pomo & Miwok Clusters continue to cause greater future damage...

The Ohlone Cluster is where class scheduling have been discontinued, and is being used for “storing” unwanted district items and trash.
The “Facilities Plan 2012” cites “Harry’s List” as the predecessor of Bond Projects, yet only two of the first five priorities for IVC has been done. This is despite the fact that Modernization of Pomo Cluster, Capital Preservation of Ohlone Cluster, and Capital Preservation of Miwok Cluster were listed as in the **top 4 priorities** for IVC in the subsequent Bond Measure.

We currently have the means to remedy the damage – to the campus AND its image - resulting from lack of funding for investment in critical facilities maintenance and to significantly improve the safety, accessibility and aesthetics of the Indian Valley Campus.

I believe we all share the desire to complete more of the modernization of the Kentfield Campus. I urge that we consider including the following minimal improvements at IVC to the final bond spending plan:

- **Cost of new roofing for entire** Pomo Cluster: $1,066,000
- **Cost of new roofing Building 17 (library):** $312,000
- **Cost of new roofing for entire** Miwok Cluster: $832,000
- **Necessary** repairs for ADA, including damaged decks, walks, handrails *(TBD)*
- **Necessary** painting/staining of exteriors to prevent further deterioration *(TBD)*

This is a significant decision with long-range implications that can lay the groundwork for the realizing the potential for the Kentfield and Indian Valley Campuses. As the newest member to join this board, I hope to bring some fresh perspective and that our consideration will result in a plan that all Marin County residents will agree is fair and wise. Rest assured, that whatever we decide together, I will support 100%. I look forward to many productive years together working for the College of Marin.