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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Measure I puts COS in line for state funds

VISALIA – Measure I will allow College of the Sequoias to invest \$17.7 million in the repair of aging instructional buildings to help the community college keep up with its climbing enrollment.

Measure I will provide the \$5.5 million local match that is required for COS to secure \$12.5 million in state funds to repair and modernize its Kern and Tule instructional buildings. In recent years, the Kern Building's leaking roof has damaged records and computer equipment in classrooms and offices.

But as COS experiences record enrollment — up 17 percent over last fall — it's becoming more important than ever to make sure classrooms are not only functional, but are modernized with up-to-date computers and technology to ensure that education is current.

Measure I would open the door for those repairs and modernizations, said COS President Bill Scroggins.

“Without Measure I funds, we would just keep applying for state funds and hope for the best,” Scroggins said. “There is a complex point system at the state for deciding which college gets the funding, and without our own matching funds, we won't be able to compete.”

With \$17.7 million, COS would basically rebuild Kern from top to bottom and renovate Tule to accommodate more office space for instructors, said Eric Mittlestead, COS' Dean of Facilities and Planning. Kern, which was built in 1967, is in dire need of infrastructure improvements (air conditioning, plumbing, electrical) and classroom modernizations.

“The current infrastructure of the building does not allow us the capability to have 100 percent modernization. Measure I will allow us to rebuild Kern, so that in the future it can be rewired and house smart classrooms,” Mittlestead said.

Smart classrooms are classrooms that are permanently equipped with computer technology, allowing instructors to use multi-media devices to enhance instruction. They are becoming more commonplace in education and are greatly needed in Kern and Tule, which house the social sciences, language arts and business/computer classrooms.

In order to pass, Measure I requires a 55 percent vote of residents living in Visalia, Farmersville, Ivanhoe, Exeter, Three Rivers, Woodlake, Cutler and Orosi.

In addition to funding the modernization of Kern and Tule, Measure I will fund many much-needed improvements and upgrades, including:

- Nursing technology and equipment for COS' nursing program. COS trains nearly 75 percent of all nurses in the area.
- Technology to ensure that students receive workplace-relevant training and to enhance distance learning options.
- Emergency phones and exterior lighting on campus to improve safety.
- Funding for the remaining \$4.3 million for the new science building.
- More parking facilities to meet long-term needs.
- Purchase of property south to Tulare Avenue for future growth.
- Energy-efficient technology that will save as much as \$100,000 annually.
- Funding to complete the new gym, including parking.

For information on Measure I, contact Bob Line at 734-3338.