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**Taxpayers Association Gives Rare “EXCELLENT” Rating to
MiraCosta Community College District’s Construction Program**

*Association’s independent review program shows performance exceeding industry standards in many
key bond program areas.*

San Diego, CA (April 4, 2024) -- The San Diego County Taxpayers Association® (Taxpayers) announced today the MiraCosta Community College District (MiraCosta) achieved an “EXCELLENT” rating for its Measure MM bond construction program. Approved in 2016 by 62% of the district’s voters, Measure MM is a \$455 million general obligation bond to modernize aging facilities and upgrade instructional technology.

Now, eight years later, Taxpayers reviewed MiraCosta’s performance, comparing it to standards defining “Good,” “Excellent,” and “Outstanding” in bond construction program management. It found Mira Costa does an EXCELLENT job of using MM funds effectively and efficiently.

The main projects in FY2023 showed a savings of some \$6 million taxpayer dollars compared to the original estimates made in 2016. This is remarkable considering construction costs have increased faster than high inflation. Taxpayers also found bond funds have been used to navigate two complex multi-phase, design-build projects successfully. Change orders are inevitable in any construction program, yet MCCCCD kept these to 4.2%, well within industry standards of 8%.

“We were comfortable engaging in this kind of performance review,” said Tim Flood, Assistant Superintendent / Vice President of Administrative Services at MiraCosta. “Our goal is to ensure the work we are doing for our students and the public is the best it can be, and so I’m beyond proud of MiraCosta for receiving this certification.”

As the region’s trusted watchdog, the Association develops benchmarks for performance where taxpayer dollars are spent. “Taxpayers have always put the spotlight on performance, both good and bad,” said Haney Hong, president and CEO of the Association. “Our certification programs give us more opportunities to praise superior work and celebrate success.”

In addition to school bond construction, the Association has also established “Good,” “Excellent,” and “Outstanding” performance benchmarks in commuter rail operations & maintenance, and wraparound youth health services. The Association is finalizing certification standards for data sharing and transparency within the homelessness services industry.

Hong says fewer than half of the organizations and programs reviewed by the Association earn any level of certification, even though the standards are public information. For those not receiving certification, the Association provides recommendations and ways to improve.

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The San Diego County Taxpayers Association (SDCTA) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization, dedicated to promoting accountable, cost-effective, and efficient government and opposing unnecessary new taxes and fees. For the last 79 years, SDCTA has served as “*San Diego’s Taxpayer Watchdog Group*” by educating the public and helping to save the region’s citizens millions of dollars. Public opinion polls consistently rate SDCTA as the most “influential” and “trusted” public policy institution in San Diego. The membership is led by President & CEO Haney Hong. SDCTA envisions a future where San Diego citizens receive a better return on investment in public assets and services. For more information, please visit www.sdcta.org, [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or call 619-234-6423.