RCCD | RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

MORENO VALLEY COLLEGE | NORCO COLLEGE | RIVERSIDE CITY COLLEGE

District Budget Advisory Council

Friday, March 20, 2026
Zoom
9:00 am – 11:00 am

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order – 9:02 am

Present: Aaron Brown, Misty Griffin, Rhonda Patterson, Elia Blount, Bob Fontaine, Virgil Lee, Esmeralda Abejar, Michael Collins, Amanda Vazquez, Jennifer Bielman, Laurie McQuay-Peninger, Nader Ghopreal

Absent: Asatar Bair, Joe Scott-Coe, Araceli Covarrubias, Adam Navas, Kimberly Bell, Charles Wilhite, Majd Askar

Guests: John Geraghty

Recorder: Gloria Aguilar

I. State Budget Update
   a. FY 2026-27 Governor's Budget Proposal Presentation
   b. The meeting focused on reviewing the Governor's proposed budget and assessing its potential impact on the district. Brown provided an overview of key elements, including COLA, growth funding, Prop 98 funding, and revenue projections. The discussion highlighted both opportunities and uncertainties in upcoming fiscal years.
   c. Prop 98 funding increased from $119B to $123.8B (2024–25) and projected at $125B (2025–26).
   d. State revenues are exceeding expectations by approximately $3B.
   e. Proposed 2.41% COLA (~$240M statewide) with an estimated $15M impact to the district.
   f. 1.5% growth funding planned across two fiscal years.
   g. Revenue and fiscal outlook: February revenue estimates exceeded projections by nearly $6B.
   h. Additional funds are likely to be one-time allocations rather than ongoing increases.
   i. Structural state budget deficit remains a concern, influencing long-term planning.
   j. District projected to be $1.3M better than prior estimates and potentially +$4M under the proposed budget.
   k. Budget currently appears to be breaking even, though final numbers are pending (e.g., FTS, supplemental metrics).
   l. Estimated $2.4M additional apportionment for 2026–27.

m. Funding allocation and projects – potential funding includes: $300K childcare tax bailout; ~$120M deferred maintenance and equipment funding; Up to $109M for
n. district capital outlay projects; Continued funding anticipated for major construction and STEM projects.
o. Uncertainty in: Prop 98 funding levels; COLA adjustments; Student Success Block Grant funding (possible reduction)
p. Potential small deficit in FY 2025–26.
q. Ongoing state deferrals due to structural imbalance.
r. Cash flow impacts more significant for smaller districts (less concern locally).
s. Additional discussion surrounded further explanation of Prop 98 funding structure and budget cycle
t. Discussion on reserve strategy and balancing current vs. future financial needs.
u. Conversation on dual enrollment funding and Student Success Block Grant outlook.
v. Review of the trailer bills and will continue to share and distribute relevant updates to the group.

II. Future Meetings

- May 29, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
- Jun 18, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned – 930 am