



SOUTH BAY CITIES
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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TO OUR LEGISLATORS:

Senators Allen and Hall; Assemblymembers Burke, Gipson, Hadley & O'Donnell

Dear ,

The Southern California Regional Occupational Center (SoCal ROC) has served the high school students and adults from the South Bay community for over four decades. In order to help keep its doors open, we ask you to support Governor Brown's budget proposal that includes matching grant dollars for Career Technical Education over the next three years. Furthermore, we would request that SoCal ROC be included along with school districts as an eligible public entity to apply for these matching state dollars.

SoCal ROC is unique to the State of California given the fact that it is the only "center" in Southern California. The purpose of the center as defined by the Legislature back in the mid 60's was to offer a regionalized approach for what was then referred to as vocational education to any student regardless of their geographic area of residence. Additionally, the center concept would eliminate an unnecessary duplication of expensive program equipment and facilities that most high schools, even today, find cost prohibitive.

Today, SoCal ROC provides high tech, sequential career pathways from five major career sectors. Students are taught by industry experts in classroom environments that reflect real world working environments. Many programs at the Center are a-g certified by the UC system and provide valuable externship experiences. The Center has been visited numerous times by California legislators, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and educators from around the world. It truly is a place that reflects California's priorities for how Career Technical Education should look.

Furthermore, at a time when the economy is beginning to look up and businesses are again hiring, they look to SoCal ROC to provide that skilled well-trained workforce in areas such as the health care industry, construction trades, and automotive technician, just to name a few.

The Governor's proposed matching grant program can be an important lifeline for SoCal ROC. We urge you to support the program as well as SoCal ROC's ability to be able to apply for it. We are extremely grateful to you for your support of SoCal ROC and your advocacy on our behalf.

Sincerely,

James F. Goodhart, SBCCOG Chair
Councilman, City of Palos Verdes Estates

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