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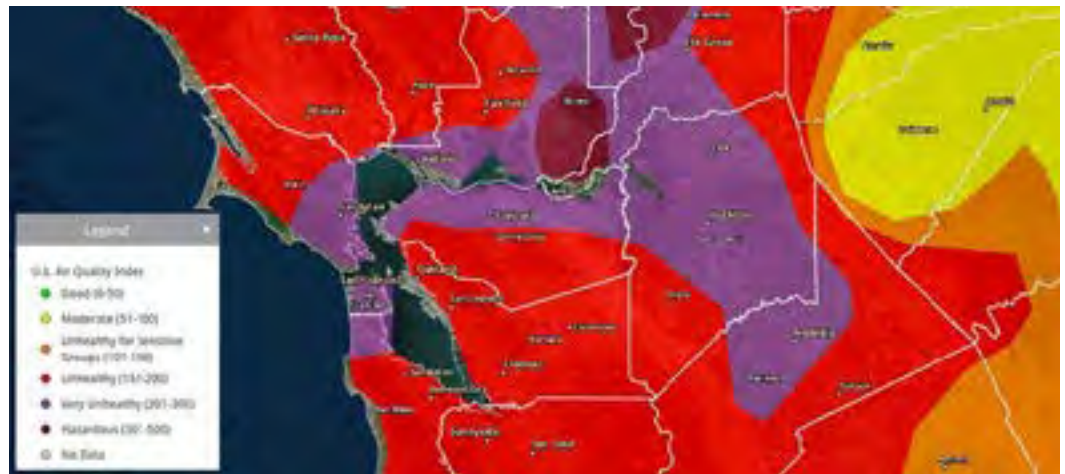
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## District Closure Due to Bad Air Quality

On Thursday, November 15, 2018, at 3:00 p.m., the District decided to close all locations – Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, Los Medanos College, Brentwood Center, San Ramon Campus and District Office due to the ongoing and unpredictable poor air quality caused by smoke from the Camp Fire in Butte County. The District joined multiple school districts in the area in closures after the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) rated air quality as “very unhealthy.”

According to the BAAQMD’s Air Quality Index (AQI), air levels 151 AQI and higher are considered unhealthy. At the time of the closures, levels had reached beyond 200 AQI, prompting the District to close its campuses for the safety and well-being of its students and staff. All locations reopened Monday, November 26, 2018, with improved air quality conditions.



Air Quality Index (AQI) from wildfire smoke for fine particulate pollution was in the red “Unhealthy” (AQI above 150) and purple “Very Unhealthy” range (AQI above 200) over much of the Bay Area November 16, 2018. Image credit: EPA



## District Wraps Up Strategic Planning Charrettes

**F**or the second and final community strategic planning dialogue, staff, faculty and community members filled the Winslow Center Assembly Room in Pleasant Hill on Wednesday, November 7, 2018, to provide their input on the 2020-25 Districtwide Strategic Plan. During the first dialogue, attendees identified 44 different values including access, equity, inclusivity and academic freedom.



*As co-facilitator of the second public input session to the Districtwide Strategic Planning meeting, **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh** welcomed new and returning attendees.*

Using those values as a foundation, attendees at this second session were prompted to begin developing strategic goals.

Guided by District Senior Dean of Research **Greg Stoup**, attendees then worked in small groups to facilitate discussions around two key points: what needs the District should fulfill (mission) and what successfully meeting those needs would look like (strategic direction). Groups brainstormed ideas as Executive Vice Chancellor, Education and Technology **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh** captured their feedback.

Future brainstorming sessions are scheduled at the colleges where faculty and staff will have an additional opportunity to share their perspectives. To learn more about the Districtwide Strategic Planning process, please visit <http://www.4cd.edu/strategicplan/default.aspx>.

## District Office Prepares for Construction



**W**hile college faculty and staff prepare for the 2019 semester, District Office staff will get ready for major construction as the District Office seismic retrofit project gets underway. Funded by the 2014 Measure E bond program, the \$7 million project will add new concrete shear walls to the north and west elevations of the building, an expanded first floor, renovated ADA-compliant restrooms on the fourth and sixth floors, as well as upgrades to the elevators.

The District Office Facilities team has plans to phase construction over the next year to minimize the impact to District Office employees and estimates project completion sometime between winter 2019 and spring 2020. The seismic retrofit is one of 30 active projects districtwide in the planning, design and/or construction phase.

## Los Medanos College Recognized by American Red Cross

Los Medanos College (LMC) was one of 20 organizations recognized by the American Red Cross Contra Costa County Leadership Council (Council) during its annual recognition ceremony. The Council recognized LMC for their contribution to the community as an American Red Cross shelter during the recent Chevron gas leak which resulted when a grass fire threatened underground Chevron gas lines prompting mandatory evacuations for thousands of Bay Point residents. Led by Chief of Police

**Ed Carney**, who received the call in the middle of the night, LMC police services staff jumped into action and assisted Red Cross volunteers in transforming the LMC gym into a fully-functioning emergency shelter providing food, beds, and other relief items to evacuees.

During the ceremony, Red Cross representatives also recognized the District for its support during past crises, such as the designation of Contra Costa College as an evacuation center during the Napa County fires in October 2017.

On hand to receive the honor was Chief Carney, who stressed the importance of partnering with organizations like the Red Cross to deliver support services to communities in times of need. “We have the space, especially in our gymnasiums, for the Red Cross to set up shelters, to feed, and provide basic needs for displaced families,” said Carney. “Together we create a complete package and are ready to serve when crises arise.”



Chief of Police **Ed Carney** is joined by American Red Cross staffers, Jennifer Lucas (left) and Diane Dupuy (second from the right), as well as Anne O, chief of staff to Supervisor Karen Michoff.

## District Welcomes New Employees

Please welcome the following new employees who were approved by the Governing Board in November.

### Regular Academic Employees

Location	Name	Title
DST	Fernando Iniguez Revulcaba	Police Services Officer Trainee
DST	Win Rein	Computer and Network Specialist, Senior
DVC	Harry Do	Financial Aid Assistant I
DVC	Michele Latifi	Admissions/Records Assistant II
LMC	Linda Jackson	Admissions/Records Assistant I

### Board Report

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held on November 14, 2018, click on the link below:

[http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board\\_reports/November%2014,%202018.pdf](http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/November%2014,%202018.pdf)

### Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the Cabinet meeting held on November 13, 2018, click on the link below:

[http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors\\_cabinet/November%202018.pdf](http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/November%202018.pdf)