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# PVUSD PROGRESS

**progress** *n* [ME, fr. L *progressus* advance, fr. *progressus*, pp. of *progređi* to go forth, fr. *pro-* forward + *graditō* to go – more at PRO-, GRADE] **1a**: a royal journey marked by pomp and pageant **b**: an expedition, journey, or march through a region. **2**: a forward or onward movement (as to an objective or to a goal) : ADVANCE **3**: gradual betterment; esp : the progressive development of mankind – **in progress** : going on : OCCURRING

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## Press Release

*For immediate release*

*January 25, 2002*

Contact: Dr. John Casey  
Phone: 786-2135

### ***CALIFORNIA COASTAL CONSERVANCY APPROVES GRANT THAT SUPPORTS THE NEW MILLENNIUM HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT!***

I am happy to report that at its public meeting of January 24, 2002, the California Coastal Conservancy voted unanimously to approve a grant to enable the remainder of what is known as the Edward's property to be purchased. The funds for the grant were allocated from Proposition 12 "Park Bond" Funds. Proposition 12 was authored by Assembly Speaker pro Tem, Fred Keeley. This grant represents a critical step in the district's ongoing effort to build a desperately needed high school for the students of the Pajaro Valley. With the district purchasing part of the Edwards property for a high school, the goal was established in the district's EIR and reinforced by the Coastal Commission conditions to secure the remainder of the property for uses restricted to agricultural production, open space, or biological restoration. The grant by the Conservancy enables this condition to be satisfied.

The grant will be to the City of Watsonville, who will hold title to the property north of the high school site, subject to Coastal Commission restrictions, while the district will hold title to the property on which the high school will be constructed. Last week, the Land Trust of Santa Cruz voted to hold conservation easements for the parcel owned by the city. This arrangement acts to further protect the environmental and agricultural interest on and near the property, and was a requirement by the Coastal Commission.

At this time we have targeted this spring to break ground for the high school, and we hope to open the school to students for the winter session of the 2003-04 school year.

Next steps are to 1) move the Edward's property through escrow and secure title (a special thanks goes to Mr. Ralph Edwards for his support and cooperation regarding this project), 2) complete all Coastal Commission conditions, including the habitat restoration plan, and 3) to secure all required permits and complete construction of the bridge over the West Branch of Struve Slough.

Finally, we would like to thank both Patsy Heasley, Project Manager, with the Conservancy for her support of this project and, of course, the Conservancy Board.

Pajaro Valley Unified School District