

LATEST NEWS

[Home](#) > [Latest news](#)

 [Latest news RSS Feed](#)  [Print Story](#)  [E-mail Story](#)

BC, Bolthouse Properties to build new campus, community

By SHELLIE BRANCO, Californian staff writer
e-mail: sbranco@bakersfield.com | Friday, Sep 7 2007 12:00 PM

Last Updated: Friday, Sep 7 2007 12:00 PM

Bakersfield College and Bolthouse Properties LLC will bring a new campus and master-planned residential community to south Bakersfield.

The Kern Community College District approved the deal Thursday during closed session at its board of trustees meeting in Bishop.

The campus would be part of 1,600 acres along Highway 99 south of Bear Mountain Boulevard, according to a district news release.

Bolthouse Properties, no longer affiliated with Bolthouse Farms, has donated 66 acres to the district. As part of the agreement, KCCD has purchased the adjoining 60 acres, for a campus site totaling 126 acres.

The campus would be part of an integrated community with low and medium density residential, schools, parks and commercial and industrial sites.

This isn't the college's first foray into such a project. The college is also looking to add a center in the northwest near Kratzmeyer Road and the Rio Bravo schools, but the project is on hold because the county nixed projects in that area in the spring, college President Bill Andrews has said. The district purchased property there in late 2005. They hoped to offer classes by 2015, but it's unknown when the project will get back on the table. Earlier plans included residential and commercial in that project as well.

Funds for the southside land purchase came from the Safety Repair and Improvement District bond approved by voters in 2002, according to the release.

Commercial and retail ventures might have ties with the college's career and tech programs.

Anthony Leggio, president of Bolthouse Properties, said this kind of partnership has been done in other communities. It's a proactive approach to design such a community with a college campus in mind, he said.

He said he doesn't foresee traffic burdens for the area because major infrastructure -- Highway 99 -- is already in place.

He said plans are conceptual at this point, but they'll be taken to the county planning department in the "immediate future." He did not specify a date.

The parties expect to close escrow before year's end, he said.