

Bond Program Biweekly Report

ending July 31, 2026

City-side Colleges

ELAC's Kinesiology Wellness Athletic Center Project Earns Key DSA Approval



The California Division of the State Architect (DSA) has approved the swing space modulators for the East Los Angeles College (ELAC) Kinesiology Wellness Athletic Center (KWAC), advancing one of the college's most significant capital improvement projects toward construction on the new facility to kick off in quarter one of 2027.

Designed to replace aging and outdated facilities currently serving ELAC's Kinesiology and Athletics programs, the new KWAC will provide a **modern, state-of-the-art environment** that supports wellness, academic learning, recreation, and intercollegiate athletics. The **three-story, 105,661-square-foot facility** will become a central hub for student activity and engagement while strengthening opportunities for health, fitness, and athletic achievement across campus.

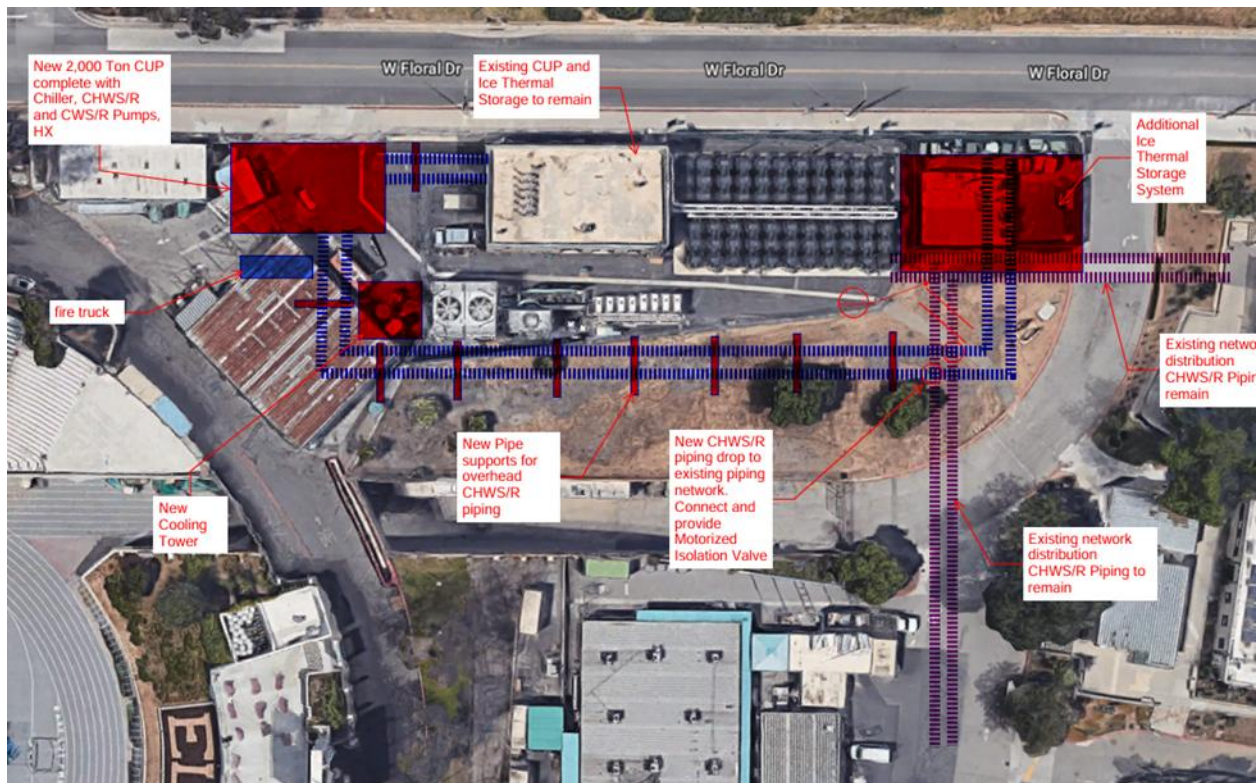
The project will feature a **competition gym, practice gym, fitness center, weight room, kinesiology fitness studios, classrooms and laboratories, academic and athletic offices, locker rooms, and an indoor running track**. In addition to the new building, the project includes **significant site improvements, outdoor fitness areas, and a multi-purpose field** that will enhance both instructional and athletic programs.

DSA approval of the swing space modulares marks the completion of a critical phase in the design process. The **project's Design-Build team, McCarthy and HED** is projecting the modulares will be in place and ready for move-in by November 2026.



Rendering Courtesy of HED

ELAC Central Plant Expansion Receives DSA Approval



The East Los Angeles College (ELAC) Central Plant Expansion recently reached a significant milestone with approval from the California Division of the State Architect (DSA), allowing the project to advance toward construction. The initiative represents a major investment in campus infrastructure that will strengthen the college's **long-term capacity, sustainability, and operational reliability**.

The project is designed to enhance the performance of ELAC's Central Utility Plant, which serves as a critical component of the campus's heating and cooling system. Planned improvements include the installation of a **new 880-ton chiller, cooling tower, and ice storage tanks**, along with associated utility and systems upgrades. These improvements will **increase the plant's cooling capacity** and help meet the growing needs of existing facilities as well as future campus development.

DSA approval marks the completion of an important phase in the project's development. The review process ensures that public education facilities comply with California's stringent standards for safety, structural integrity, accessibility, and building code requirements. Achieving this approval reflects the collaborative efforts of the project team, design professionals, and stakeholders who have worked diligently to move the project through planning and design.

With a **total budget of approximately \$38.9 million**, the Central Plant Expansion is funded through **Measure J and Measure CC bond programs**. The project began design activities in 2022 and is currently scheduled to begin construction following the issuance of a Notice to Proceed in October 2026, with **substantial completion and academic occupancy anticipated in late 2028**.

Once completed, the expanded facility will support **ELAC's ongoing commitment to sustainability and energy efficiency** while providing the infrastructure necessary to serve the campus for decades to come.

Seaside Colleges

Construction Complete for the New Cougar Den at Los Angeles Southwest College



Los Angeles Southwest College (LASC) reached a major milestone on July 31, 2026, with the Substantial Completion of the new **Cougar Den**, a transformative facility designed to become the center of student life on campus. Funded through Measure CC, the two-story, 31,000-square-foot student union building provides modern spaces that support educational, cultural, social, recreational, and leadership activities while fostering student engagement and success.

Designed by **HGA** and constructed by **W.E. O'Neil Construction** through a Design-Build delivery method, Cougar Den was envisioned as a welcoming "home away from home" for LASC students. The facility features a spacious dining area with seating for more than 200 students, faculty, staff, and guests, along with branded food stations, a campus café, and heated and refrigerated pickup cubbies that support convenient mobile ordering. The

dining area opens directly onto the campus quad, creating a seamless indoor-outdoor environment for gatherings, events, and everyday student interaction.

The new Student Union offers a wide range of amenities designed to enrich campus life, including a game room, student lounge, conference and meeting spaces, reservable study rooms, a podcast studio, and a large multipurpose room with access to an outdoor terrace. The building also houses the offices of the Associated Student Organization (ASO), Student Life, Administration, and the Campus Food Pantry, bringing key student resources together in one central location.

The project was designed with sustainability in mind and is targeting **LEED Silver certification**. Sustainable features include drought-tolerant landscaping, extensive use of natural daylight, recyclable materials, and rooftop solar photovoltaic panels capable of generating approximately 240,584 kilowatt-hours of renewable energy annually, avoiding an estimated 57.25 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year.

Construction began in November 2021 and required nearly **200,000 labor hours** from workers representing **25 building trades**, creating meaningful workforce opportunities and supporting local and small businesses throughout the project. The facility was built with a strong commitment to LACCD's Local, Emerging, Small, and Disabled Veteran-owned Business (LSEDV) program.

The project was delivered through the leadership of **Yang Management, Inc.**, including College Project Director **Eloy Retamal**, Design Manager **Gang Chen**, Project Manager **Robert Tabarango**, Relocation Project Manager **Aundria Armstrong**, and PMO Regional Program Director **Natalie Mason**, whose efforts helped bring this important student-centered facility to completion.

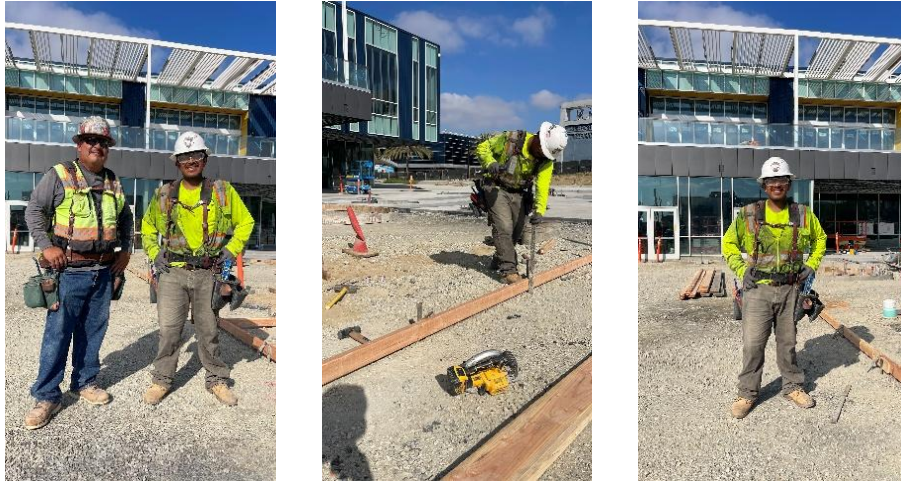
As Cougar Den prepares to welcome students, it stands as a lasting investment in the future of Los Angeles Southwest College and a vibrant new hub where students can connect, collaborate, learn, and thrive.

Building Careers at Cougar Den: Project Creates Pathways to Union Construction Careers

While the new Cougar Den will serve as a hub for student life at Los Angeles Southwest College, the project has also created meaningful opportunities for individuals pursuing careers in the construction industry. Through partnerships with union contractors and workforce development programs, the project helped connect aspiring trades professionals with hands-on employment opportunities that support long-term career growth.



One success story is **Juan Juarez** (pictured above), an ACE-MC3 graduate who joined the LASC Cougar Den project in April 2023. Through **Ironworkers Local 416** and subcontractor **Next Century Rebar**, Juarez gained valuable experience working on the construction of the new facility while building a foundation for a career in the union trades.



Another placement was **David Martinez** (pictured above), a graduate of the Los Angeles Trade-Technical College (LATTC) CMU Carpentry Program. Martinez joined the project in September 2025 through **Carpenters Local 323** and subcontractor **GT Commercial**, where he further developed his skills while contributing to one of Los Angeles Southwest College's most significant campus improvement projects.

These placements reflect the broader goals of BuildLACCD's **Community Economic Development Program**, which works to connect students, graduates, and local residents with career opportunities generated by bond-funded construction projects. The success of these placements was made possible through the support and commitment of project subcontractors that embraced workforce development and provided pathways into the union construction industry.

As Cougar Den prepares to welcome students, its impact extends beyond the building itself. The project has not only delivered a new destination for campus life but has also helped create opportunities for the next generation of skilled construction professionals. Through the efforts of partners such as **Next Century Rebar**, **Ironworkers Local 416**, **GT Commercial**, and **Carpenters Local 323**, the project demonstrates how investment in campus facilities can also translate into investment in people and careers.

For more information on all **BuildLACCD active projects**, please see the following:

- [Active Design Projects Status Report \(as of May 31, 2026\)](#)
- [Active Construction Projects Status report \(as of May 31, 2026\)](#)