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Local colleges get better lighting

The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District has secured more than \$600,000 in state funding to add more energy-efficient lighting at its two East County campuses.

The district was one of 14 in the state to receive funding from Proposition 39, a measure passed in November 2012 that raised taxes on out-of-state corporations to pay for clean energy projects at schools and campuses in California.

Of the more than \$8 million that was handed out in the state's third round of appropriations, the college district, which serves La Mesa and Mount Helix, received \$614,585. The district is also receiving a \$84,799 rebate from San Diego Gas & Electric Co. for the lighting improvements.

While several San Diego

County schools have received energy funding from Proposition 39, Grossmont-Cuyamaca is the only community college district in San Diego County to have received funding. The state is expecting to allocate an estimated \$2.5 billion over five years to eligible projects that will increase energy efficiency and broaden clean energy.

The district will be using the money to partially fund a \$2.1-million project to replace existing lights to LED (light-emitting diode) fixtures for pedestrian walks, parking lot lighting and some street lighting. More than 8,000 fluorescent lamps in classrooms at Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges will also be replaced with the more energy-efficient

lighting.

LED lighting is more energy-efficient, durable, versatile and longer-lasting than traditional incandescent and compact fluorescent lighting.

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