

# The District

## INTRODUCTION

In 1946 the Palomar Junior College District was established in Northern San Diego County. Classes were held on the campus of Vista High until the summer of 1950 when Palomar College opened the doors to students at its permanent location in San Marcos. On the first day of classes at Vista High School, there were 100 students and three days later there were 198 students. The San Marcos Campus is now supplemented by 9 additional centers and sites located throughout Northern San Diego County enrolling over 30,000 students.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT

Now named the Palomar Community College District, the District enrolls over 30,000 students and extends from the Pacific Ocean eastward across the mountains of the Cleveland National Forest into the Anza-Borrego Desert. Encompassing an area of more than 2,550 square miles, the district is larger than the states of Rhode Island and Delaware. The Map at the right illustrates the boundaries and general topography of the district as well as the locations of the major district facilities. The southwest portion of the District closest to the city of San Diego and to the coastline is the most heavily populated. The areas to the far north and east are more rural and progressively less and less populated. The northwest corner is sparsely populated and occupied by the Camp Pendleton United States Marine Corps Base.

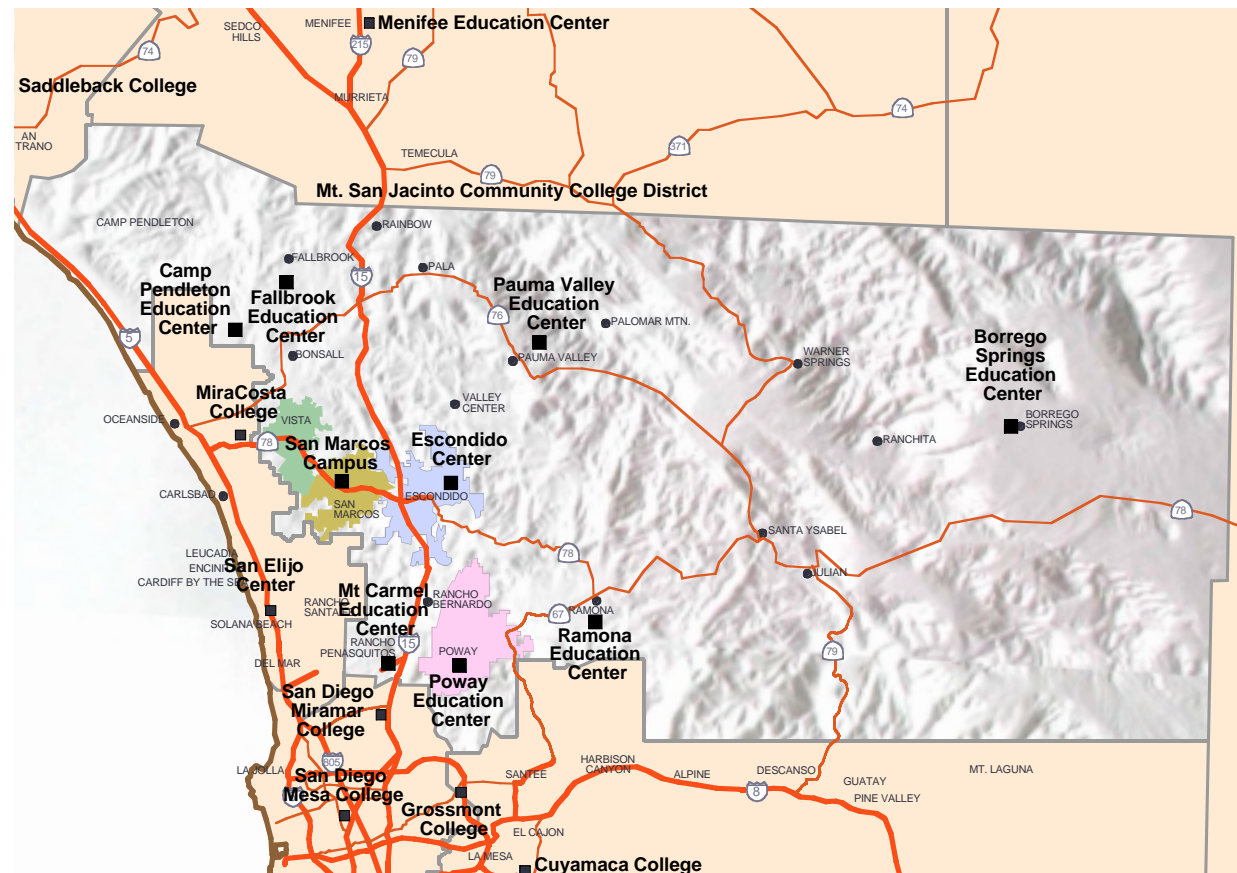
### District Facility Locations

The main district campus is located in the City of San Marcos and there is a state approved educational center in the city of Escondido seven and a half miles to the east. In order to better serve our student population, the Palomar Community College District maintains seven additional educational sites at the following locations: Borrego Springs, Camp Pendleton, Fallbrook

High School, Pauma Indian Reservation, Poway High School, Ramona High School, and Mt. Carmel High School (Rancho Peñasquitos).

### Adjoining Districts

There are seven community college districts that border the Palomar Community College District. They are:



Map 2.1  
Palomar Community College campus and center locations

- South Orange County
- Mount San Jacinto
- Desert
- Imperial Valley
- Grossmont- Cuyamaca
- San Diego
- Mira Costa

Only Mount San Jacinto, Grossmont-Cuyamaca, San Diego, and Mira Costa have significant service overlap with the Palomar Community College District. The others about the most isolated and lightly populated areas of the District and their campuses are quite distant from any of the Palomar permanent facilities.

In order to better serve the students within the District in the future it will be important to keep in mind the varying district geography, which in some places restricts travel, and the educational services provided by our neighboring community college districts. The next chapter, Study of Growth, considers these factors as well as many others to project student enrollments out to the year 2022.