SCCD Deploys Uvara for Comprehensive Planning Performed in a Fraction of the Time

Solano Community College District (SCCD) Fairfield, California. Solano Community College District is a public community college in Fairfield, California. The District consists of the main Fairfield campus and two centers in Vacaville and Vallejo. The 192-acre main campus was completed in 1971, with the Vallejo Center opening in 2007 and the Vacaville Center opening in 2008. Currently, the three campuses have approximately 11,000 students taking classes in person and online. As part of their Facilities Master Planning project in 2012, and preparing for the placement of Measure Q, a $348M Facilities improvement Bond, SCCD deployed Uvara for its three campuses.

The Master Plan architect understood that the normal planning process would mean having an engineer gather up legacy documentation and piece together a new proposal showing the locations of existing infrastructure and calculating current capacities. They immediately saw the value of UVARA in providing all of that information and much more.

With the passage of Measure Q by the voters in California, a Bond Manager was brought onboard and pre-construction planning began. The District's Bond Manager, Leigh Sata, leveraged Uvara as a tool to plan for the new facilities program. Having accurate information readily available about the location, size, and age of utility assets facilitated faster more efficient planning. In addition, because UVARA interacts directly with AutoCAD, predesign was simplified.

Planners were able to look at alternative routing for utilities and quickly determine the length of the runs, the amount of materials needed, and the associated costs. One of the first steps in initializing a construction program is to "phase the program," or determine the order in which various projects will be constructed.

"The UVARA program made the Facilities Master Planning process easier and helped us identify specific needs for upgrades to the infrastructure that would have otherwise been missed."

*—**Rob Barthelman**, Measure Q Facilities Master Plan Architect*

Normally this is a multi-week endeavor, but Mr. Sata used Uvara to accomplish the task in just one day. In addition, he had solid backup documentation to justify the phasing order. A few weeks later the Uvara implementation training team was at the Fairfield campus demonstrating the Uvara program to the facilities staff when the Facilities Manager received a call on his radio: a contractor working on site had uncovered an unidentified pipe during excavation.

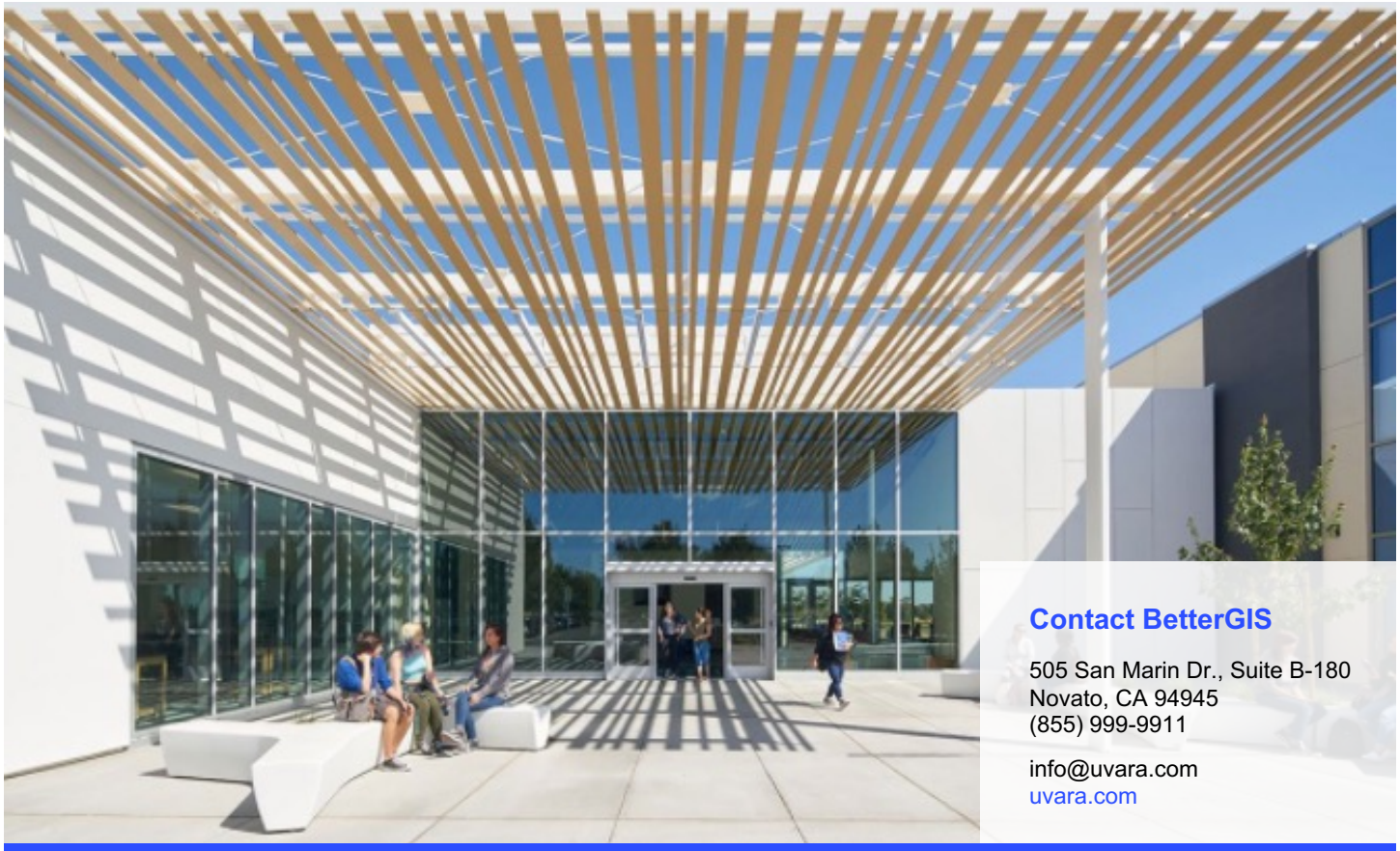
Excavation had stopped and the contractor was waiting for guidance from facilities. The UVARA team went right to the contractor's location and quickly identified the pipe as a drainage line connected to the downspout of a nearby building. Within 30 minutes the mystery was solved and construction back on track.

During the construction phase of the Measure Q program, a new building was being planned for an open area on the Fairfield campus. The building was designed as part of a previous bond program but on hold until funding allowed it to move forward. It was phased for construction in the early stages of Measure Q and was being fast-tracked because the design was shovel-ready. Bids were in and construction scheduled.

During a final design review session, the building plans were placed on the UVARA model to look for conflicts and it became obvious why that area of the campus had been left undeveloped: it was the location of a major utility corridor. If construction had begun in that location, main utility lines could have been damaged and the entire campus put at risk. Ultimately the project was put on hold again and the building relocated.

"Without the use of this GIS technology, we would have spent far more time and experienced hundreds of thousands of dollars in unnecessary planning and construction costs."

*—**Leigh Sata**, Measure Q Program Manager*



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