

Measure M Annual Report – 2014-2015 (Year Five)

From: Measure M Parcel Tax, Citizens’ Oversight Committee (the “Committee”)

To: Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees (the “Board”)
685 East Jack London Boulevard
Livermore, CA 94551

Dated: April 30, 2015

Background:

On November 3, 2008, 76.2% of Livermore voters approved Measure M (Parcel Tax). This measure authorized the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (the “District”) to levy an annual tax of \$138 per parcel with exemptions for citizens over the age of 65, if they applied. This parcel tax commenced on July 1, 2010 and remains in effect for five (5) fiscal years. This report covers the fifth and final fiscal year of the tax.

The stated purpose of Measure M is to maintain the quality of Livermore’s schools during the State budget crisis by providing additional funds to:

- Attract and retain highly qualified teachers;
- Maintain small class sizes;
- Maintain college, career, and job preparation classes;
- Maintain art, music, and foreign language programs;
- Maintain computers, infrastructure and instructional technology upgrades;
- Maintain elementary science specialists; and
- Maintain high school counselors.

The measure requires the formation of an independent Measure M Parcel Tax Citizens’ Oversight Committee. The Committee is responsible for conducting an annual, independent performance audit to verify that parcel tax monies are spent in accordance with Measure M. The Committee is also responsible for submitting an annual report to the Board.

Membership:

The Committee was appointed by the Board and convened in February 2015 with the following members:

Tyler Olson, Chair
Betty Mangadu, Secretary
Neal Cavanaugh
Betty S. Cleveland
Kyle Dickenson

Yanira Guzman
Mary Mele
Kristie Wang
Henry Huff - Alternate
Phillip A. Weiss - Alternate

Committee History:

The Committee's first meeting was held on February 12, 2015. Five of the members are serving their second term while five members are new to the Committee. Meetings were held to provide all members with an opportunity to review and discuss the information and documents upon which this report is based. Meetings were conducted in accordance with the Brown Act and were open to the public. The District provided reports, answered questions, and assisted the Committee as requested. In particular, Susan Kinder (Chief Business Official) and Nancy Ramirez (Confidential Secretary, Business Services) assisted the Committee and were available to answer questions, provide support, and attend meetings as requested by the Committee.

Measure M Revenue FY2014-2015:

During the budgetary process, the District estimated it would receive \$3,797,484 in revenue from Measure M for fiscal year 2014-2015. There was no reserve carry-over noted from the prior fiscal year (2013-2014).

Parcels and Exemptions:

Measure M funding for fiscal year 2014-15 was based upon the number of parcels submitted to the Contra Costa County and Alameda County Auditor's offices for placement on the tax roll. Pursuant to the September 15, 2014 report (the "Final Assessment Report") prepared by Francisco & Associates, Inc., on behalf of the District, there were 29,387 taxable parcels in the District in Alameda County and 126 taxable parcels in the District in Contra Costa County for fiscal year 2014-15. The Final Assessment Report indicates there were 1,995 exemptions granted. After deducting the 1,995 exempted parcels, the Final Assessment Report placed the number of parcels paying the tax at 27,518. Compared to fiscal year 2013-14, this represents an increase of 30 taxable parcels and an increase of 297 exemptions for a net loss of 267 tax paying parcels. In fiscal year 2013-14 there were 27,785 tax paying parcels in the District after deducting the 1,698 exemptions that were granted. (See Fourth Annual Report for Measure M dated May 6, 2014.) This translates to a decrease in Measure M funding of \$36,846, or approximately 0.96-percent.

Assessment Fees:

The District pays an assessment fee to Alameda County and Contra Costa County for collecting this supplemental tax. This year the total fee is budgeted at \$63,000, which represents approximately 1.66-percent of total Measure M funding.

Programs Funded by Measure M:

Based on the information provided to the Committee by the District, the Committee is satisfied that the Measure M funds for fiscal year 2014-15 were budgeted and, if expended as budgeted, will be spent in accordance with Measure M (see Attachment-1). Examples as to how Measure M funds have been, or will be, spent in fiscal year 2014-15 are set forth below and are categorized according to the stated purposes of Measure M:

The District used proceeds from Measure M to fund/purchase: (i) Innovator Grants for teachers; (ii) Filewave Student Device Management Software; (iii) 6 projectors for Joe Michell K-8 and Junction K-8; (iv) 8 laptops for teachers at Joe Michell K-8 and Junction Avenue K-8; (v) Juniper Wireless LAN Access Point; (vi) Student Device Management License for Michell K-8; and (vii) 120 Chromebooks (64 with cart, mouse, and headphone).

Maintain Elementary School Science Programs

Measure M provides \$1,410,156, or approximately 37.1-percent of the available funds, to retain 14.93 FTE Science Specialist positions that support all ten Elementary Schools. This translates to 418 science classes held each week throughout the school year.

Maintain High School Counselors

High School Counselor positions continue to be funded as a result of Measure M. Specifically, Measure M allowed:

- € Granada High School and Livermore High School to each keep their two Counselors; and
- € Del Valle/Phoenix Continuation High School to partially fund its part-time Counselor at a rate of 0.25 FTEs (position is augmented by the General Fund to provide a total FTE of 0.75).

The foregoing 4.25 FTE positions are fully funded by Measure M at a cost of \$469,686, or approximately 12.4-percent of the parcel tax funding.

Conclusion:

Based upon the information provided to the Committee by the District, the Committee is satisfied that the funds received for fiscal year 2014-15 from proceeds of the Measure M Parcel Tax, as approved by voters November 8, 2008, valued at \$3,797,484, were in fact budgeted in accordance with the ballot language of Measure M and, if ultimately expended as budgeted by the District, those funds will have been spent by the District in accordance with Measure M.

[Signatures on following page.]

Respectfully submitted,

NOTE:
Signatures are on file

Tyler Olson, Chair (Year-2)

Betty Mangadu, Secretary (Year-2)

Neal Cavanaugh (Year-2)

Betty S. Cleveland (Year-1)

Kyle Dickerson (Year-2)

Yanira Guzman (Year-1)

Mary Mele (Year-2)

Kristie Wang (Year-1)

Henry Huff, Alternate (Year-1)

Phillip A. Weiss, Alternate (Year-1)