

June 1, 2023

Prepared by
Measure A Citizens' Oversight Committee
for the
Board of

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I. Executive Summary

In an election on May 3, 2022, 67.24% of Livermore voters approved the Measure A Parcel Tax, authorizing the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School (LVJUSD) to levy an annual parcel tax of \$138 on each parcel of taxable real property. The stated purpose of Measure A is to help the LVJUSD provide advanced courses in math, science, and engineering, help keep schools well-maintained, attract and retain highly qualified teachers, provide elementary school science and technology specialists, and keep classroom technology and instructional materials up-to-date.

As stipulated by Measure A, a committee has been convened annually to ensure that proceeds of the tax are spent wisely and only for the purposes named in Measure A. This current report is an assessment by the current Committee of the appropriateness of the Measure A expenditures for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Measure A revenue totaled \$3,973,848 which consisted of \$ 3,958,530.00 from 28,685 valid real estate parcels in Alameda County and \$15,318 from 111 valid parcels in Contra Costa County. Details of how this revenue was used by the LVJUSD are provided in Section V of this report, and highlights include:

- 10 FTEs (Full-Time Equivalents) at a cost of \$1,180,306 or approximately 30% of the available funds in 2022-2023 were used to strengthen the solid foundation in STEM for LVJUSD students.

- To keep schools well maintained, \$200,000, or approximately 5% of the available funds were used to augment maintenance efforts throughout the LVJUSD.

- Recruitment of Quality Teachers: LVJUSD makes several external efforts to attract quality teachers throughout the school year such as participating in multiple virtual certificated job fairs at local colleges and universities to recruit new teaching talent. The LVJUSD has been able to attract a large pool of candidates

Additional details, from the prior audited financial statements, demonstrate that LVJUSD has accounted for the parcel tax revenue and is trending to spend the funds in the same manner as the prior audited financial statements.

The Committee reviewed the provided documents, including the Ballot Measure Submittal Form, the full text of Measure A, 2022-2023 revenue and expenditures by Measure A, LVJUSD Staffing Reports, and the LVJUSD 2022-2023 Funding Summary. The Committee concludes that all Measure A expenditures were appropriate for the purposes of this measure and determined that these funds are helping augment STEM resources and overall school needs such as maintenance, in these important areas.

This report covers the first fiscal year of the Measure A Parcel Tax and details # assessment of how the funds were dispersed and used in 2022-2023.

III

IV. 2022-2023 Measure A Revenue, Parcels, Exemptions, and Fees

Financial consultants Francisco & Associates provided information on the Measure A revenue for 2022-2023, totaling \$ 3,958,530.00 which consisted of 28,685 valid real estate parcels in Alameda County and \$15,318 from 111 valid parcels in Contra Costa County. Not included in the total funds are \$273,240, which were not collected for Measure A due to the senior exemption provision (65 or older) of this Parcel Tax. This exemption amount corresponded to a total of 1980 parcels consisting of 1,627 previous and 343 new applications in Alameda County, and 9 previous and 1 new application in Contra Costa County.

Thus, the LVJUSD was allocated \$3,973,848 of Measure A proceeds in 2022

Based on the information provided to the Committee by the Staff, the Committee is satisfied that the Measure A funds received by the LVJUSD in 2022-2023 were expended, or if expended as budgeted, will be spent in accordance with Measure A. Examples of how Measure A funds have been spent are detailed below and are categorized according to the stated purposes of Measure A.

Provide Advanced Courses in Math, Science, and Engineering

Proceeds from this Parcel Tax are authorized to be used to provide advanced courses in math, science, and engineering. These funds were utilized at all grade levels to support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education.

Throughout the elementary school level, parcel tax funds are used to support STEM education, focusing on math, science, and engineering. The funding provides for Science Specialists at all sites, which ensures our scholars have a solid foundation in STEM and are prepared for advanced courses in high school. Principals have reported that the Science Specialists use hands-on activities to engage our scholars and drive their interests in science.

At the secondary school level, parcel tax funds are used to provide advanced science, and engineering courses. Examples of courses taught with Measure A funding: AP Physics; IB Physics SL/HL; Principles of Engineering; AP Computer Science; PLTW Honors Introduction to Engineering and Design; PLTW Honors Principles of Engineering; Foods/Healthy Living; Culinary

FTE teachers at Granada reach 107 and 217 students; and 3 FTE teachers at Livermore High reach 153, 128, and 313 students. Information for Vineyard was not available.

| English Learners (EL) Enrollment | Campus | Teacher 1 | Teacher 2 |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| Granada enrollment | 132 | 0 | 2 |
| Percentage of total enrollment | 5.75% | 0.00% | 0.92% |

population makes up 45.8% of the overall student population and 55.1% of the students served by Measure A funds.

| English Learners (EL) Enrollment | Campus | Teacher 1 | Teacher 2 | Teacher 3 |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Livermore Enrollment | 138 | 14 | 2 | 34 |
| Percentage of total enrollment | 7.71% | 9.15% | 1.59% | 10.86% |

*Based on campus total 1,791

National School Lunch Program Enrollment
Students qualifying for Free and Reduced

Campus Teacher 1 Teacher 2 Teacher 3

makes up 45.0% of the student population and an average of 47.8% of the students taking classes funded by Measure A.

Demographic information (ethnicity, race, EL, or NSLP) was not provided for Vineyard.

The Committee accumulated demographic data for the information above from the EdData.org website for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Ed-Data is a partnership of the California Department of Education, EdSource, and the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team/California School Information Services (FCMAT/CSIS) designed to offer educators, policy makers, the legislature, parents, and the public quick access to timely and comprehensive data about K-12 education in California.

Keep Schools Well Maintained

Proceeds from this Parcel Tax are authorized to be used for work related to the maintenance activities to keep school facilities in good working order. This fiscal year, \$200,000 was budgeted for the following:

- District-wide fire alarm inspections including inspection and servicing of fire alarm panels and related devices,

- Fire sprinkler maintenance including the repair of sprinkler heads, supply lines, valves, and the fire sprinkler suppression system,

- Fire extinguisher inspections, repairs, and replacements,

- Wheelchair lifts and elevator lift inspections and repairs,

- Boiler inspections and repairs, if needed, for the sites that use them as heating systems or as part of pool systems,

- Security alarm system repairs,

- Payment of fee for a registration number with the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) for the handling of CalEPA-registered materials used in science classrooms and for school ground maintenance.

Attract and Retain Highly Qualified Teachers

LVJUSD made sound efforts to attract and retain highly qualified teachers. Recruitment efforts included a variety of online platforms to reach out to new teachers including:

District-wide Job Fair held November 30, 2022,

Job Openings advertised on District social media channels, through PeachJar, principal newsletters, Chamber of Commerce, and community partners,

Job fairs including:

- Tri-Valley Career Center Recruitment fair held at Vineyard Alternative School Spring 2023,
- # \ K 7 o ,
- Cal State East Bay Job Fair Spring 2023,

District websites,

Work with various Universities and Credentialing programs to place student teachers in classrooms,

New partnership with Las Positas College students, in early childhood development coursework, to

Altamont Creek Elementary

Science Specialists push the boundaries of TK- 5 education by harnessing the power of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (S.T.E.A.M.) Students engage in hands-on activities to solve real

Junction Avenue K-8

Students benefit from a high-quality science education that establishes a solid foundation for learning in later grades and instills a wonder of and enthusiasm for science. The Science Specialist creates interactive experiences, teaches students how to gather and use real data, and how to apply science concepts to real life.

Lawrence Elementary

Students participate in hands-on explorations with the Science Specialist. The Specialist works closely with community agencies to ensure that students are exposed to scientists. PLTW excites 1st through 5th grade learners. Students also enjoy online field trips and discussions in the science lab. The classroom teachers and Science Specialist collaborate regularly to ensure that the students are receiving high-quality science instruction. Students also gain leadership skills on the Green Team, which is supported by the Science Specialist.

Marylin Ave. Elementary

Students experience hands-on science learning in the lab twice a week. With guidance from the Science Specialist, they also learn how to make a scientific argument. Conducting experiments, reviewing them closely, developing logical reasoning, and responding to analytical comments are some of the skills that will help propel these students into future STEM careers.

Rancho Las Positas Elementary

The Science Specialists offer countless opportunities to students to explore the world around them. They succeed in their mission: to get students excited about science. They instill logical thinking and problem solving into their lessons. Many students find science inspiring and interesting, building their foundation for solving the challenges that await in their future.

Sunset Elementary

The Science Specialists go above and beyond to encourage a love of science while they strive to teach and utilize NGSS. Their lessons are well prepared and creative, including experiments, data collection, and observations of real-life phenomena, like the metamorphosis of a mealworm. As a result, students gain critical thinking skills, problem solving, group collaboration, and community/environmental impacts.

Keep Classroom Technology and Instructional Materials Up-To-Date and To the Extent Funds are Available, to Maintain Academic Programs, Including the Purchase of Instructional Equipment, Materials, and Supplies

The LVJUSD received \$41,801 or approximately 1.0% of the available funds in 2022-2023 to keep classroom technology and instructional materials up-to-date. The schools and the District provided the Committee with numerous examples of how the funds were used for this section of Measure A.

All Schools

Technology use is now an integral part of every student's learning journey. Measure A funds have been extremely helpful in helping schools ensure that their technology and digital content is preparing students for their individual life journeys after high school.

The funds were used to purchase technology that supports needs in advanced math, science, and engineering courses. These include advanced in all STEM areas.

These purchases provide important functionality to assist teachers to measure student understanding of the concepts taught and strive for continuous improvement.

In many cases, the funds were used to fund DreamBox where students work on assigned tasks from teachers. Through its online capabilities and strong dashboard, Dreambox provides teachers the ability to track student progress in math.

The funds allowed schools to continue supporting Project Lead the Way (PLTW). This project promotes pre-engineering courses for middle and high school students.

The funds were used to purchase programs and subscriptions such as Comic Life, which continues to engage students and help them towards their goal of graduation.

VI. Conclusions

Overall, the Committee concludes that the \$3,958,530.00 of Measure A revenue for the LVJUSD in 2022-2023 will be used to provide advanced courses in science and engineering, help keep schools well-maintained, attract and retain highly qualified teachers, provide elementary school science, and technology specialists, and keep classroom technology and instructional materials up-to-date. The benefits of Measure A funds have been documented across all the schools within the LVJUSD, the expenses are within the LVJUSD to keeping Livermore schools up-to-date and well maintained.

Finally, the Committee members wish to offer their sincere appreciation for info

VII. Respectfully Submitted

Bruce Cumming, Committee Chair

Brooke Feidy, Secretary

Ann Brown, Committee Member

Ziad Hitti, Committee Member

Latika Khare, Committee Member

Maria Reenelyn Torres, Committee Member