



# Citizens' Oversight Committee for Measures J and G Board of Trustees Update Letter

October 2014

## Statement of Progress

The Measure J, Citizens' Oversight Committee wish to present this letter updating the Board of Trustees and the community on our activity to date. It has been 18 months since this Citizens' Oversight Committee was seated.

As required by law, we will provide Annual Reports through the completion of the Measure J Bond Construction Program. We formed when the bonds had not yet been sold, and have had little to do to date. Del Terra has offered us the updates they prepared for the Trustees, and the district has provided most of the information we need to accomplish our duties.

Due to the transition of the Superintendent and the retirement of Linda Latasa as the Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, there has not yet been an annual audit or performance audit of the work in planning, in process and completed projects. That documentation has been contracted. This committee will be providing a full report after our January meeting when these documents will be available to help us complete our duties.

The Committee is comprised of individuals selected by the Governing Board of the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District. Each member represents a different group within the community. The Committee is charged with monitoring and reporting to the community and ensuring that bond funds are being spent in an effective and efficient manner, and that the funds are used only for the projects approved by the voters.

The Committee has met more than 7 times since it's creation to carry out its responsibilities. The Committee is a public body which generally meets on the fourth Monday of each quarter. Regular and special meeting locations, dates, and times are posted on the District website at [www.arusd.org/](http://www.arusd.org/). The public is welcomed and encouraged to attend and participate in our quarterly meetings.

### **Committee History/Background**

The Measure G committee originally was seated in 2008 when Measure G passed. The members who sat on that committee completed reports until the fiscal year 2009-2010. A report was filed with the Board in June of 2012. That was the last official function of the original Measure G committee.

The current committee was formed after Measure J passed and first met on April 22, 2013. Formed as the Measure G committee, the district legal department was consulted to determine if this committee could oversee Measures G and J. Once that was determined, the Board of Trustees voted to make it so. Therefore, the current committee oversees both Measure G and Measure J.

During the first few meetings a majority of information received was regarding the sale of the bonds and the proposed work for Measure J. Last spring we started to get more information on expenditures from the first wave of work. The committee planned to report to the board at that time, but was asked to wait until after the new superintendent was fully immersed in her role by Mrs. Linda Latasa.

Upon the committee's return this fall there was a meeting with new Superintendent Dr. Hilaria Bauer to determine the committee's role and responsibilities. During the meeting, the committee and Superintendent Dr. Bauer realized audits had not been done and the committee asked that the district move on that immediately. At this time the committee is working with Del Terra, Dr. Bauer and ARUSD staff to insure that an annual report is done correctly. We thank you for your patience.

Originally the committee was 5 members and recently have had a resignation. This brings the committee's vacancy to 3. Outreach has been done to committee networks. The committee respectfully requests the district and board assistance to achieve the seven member committee mandated in the by-laws. Webpages have been updated to ensure better communication with community members and stakeholders.

The Committee has reviewed the Districts June 30, 2014 detailed reconciliation. At this time the Committee has no comments on the use of Measure J Bond Funds and the expenditures to date. Audits and detailed expense reports are needed to finalize and accomplish the committee goals for fiscal year 2013-2014. This data has been promised in November 2014 by ARUSD staff.

The Committee members will plan a future date to tour the Bond projects funded under Measure J. The committee acknowledges that to the best of its knowledge, Alum Rock Union Elementary School District is in compliance with the requirements as set forth in Article XIII A, Section 1(b) (3) of the California Constitution. Specifically, bond revenue has been expended only for the purposes so described in Measure J.

The Committee does not have any comments on Measure G funds as we do not have the detailed information to assess at this time. The district has agreed to provide all relevant data for review by the January 2015 meeting.

The Committee looks forward to continuing the efforts to assist the Alum Rock community and the District in reviewing the Measure J Construction Program and ensuring all Bond Program funds are spent appropriately.

Thank you for your support.

#### The Citizens' Oversight Committee Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representation Type</u>
Raymond Mueller	PTA/SSC/Parent Chair
Christina Ramos	Taxpayer's Organization Vice Chair
Ric Abeyta	Community-at-Large
Julie Ramirez	PTA/SSC/Parent
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Community-at-Large</i>
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Business Representative</i>
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Senior Citizen Group</i>