

**VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**MEASURE E GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS**  
**PERFORMANCE AUDIT**  
June 30, 2016

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Education and Bond Oversight Committee  
Visalia Unified School District  
Visalia, California

We have conducted a performance audit of the Visalia Unified School District (the "District"), Measure E General Obligation Bond funds for the year ended June 30, 2016.

We conducted our performance audit in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our conclusion based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

Our audit was limited to the objectives listed on page 3 of this report which included determining that the District expended Measure E General Obligation Bond funds for the year ended June 30, 2016 only for the purposes approved by the voters, in accordance with the requirements of the published election materials specifying the intended use of Measure E General Obligation Bond proceeds. Management is responsible for Visalia Unified School District's compliance with those requirements.

Solely to assist us in planning and performing our performance audit, we obtained an understanding of the internal controls of Visalia Unified School District to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate for the purpose of providing a conclusion on the District's compliance with the requirements of Proposition 39, as specified by Section 1(b)(3)(C) of Article XIII A of the California Constitution, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control. Accordingly, we do not express any assurance on the internal controls.

The results of our tests indicated that, in all significant respects, Visalia Unified School District expended Measure E General Obligation Bond funds for the year ended June 30, 2016 only for the specific projects developed by the District's Governing Board and approved by the voters, in accordance with the requirements of the published election materials specifying the intended use of Measure E General Obligation Bond proceeds.



Crowe Horwath LLP

Sacramento, California  
January 12, 2017

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MEASURE E GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS  
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

On November 7, 2000, California voters approved Proposition 39, the Smaller Classes, Safer Schools and Financial Accountability Act. Proposition 39 amended portions of the California Constitution to provide for the issuance of general obligation bonds by school districts, "for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or replacement of school facilities, including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities, or the acquisition or lease of real property for school facilities", upon approval by 55% of the electorate.

Education Code Section 15278 provides additional accountability measures:

1. A requirement that the school district establish and appoint members to an independent citizens' oversight committee.
2. A requirement that the school district expend bond funds only for the purposes described in Section 1(b)(3) of Article XIII A of the California Constitution, and ensuring that no funds are used for any teacher or administrative salaries or other school operating expenses.
3. A requirement to conduct an annual independent performance audit required by Section 1(b)(3)C of Article XIII A of the California Constitution.
4. A requirement to conduct an annual independent financial audit required by Section 1(b)(3)D of Article XIII A of the California Constitution.

**VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL MEASURE E GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS**

On November 6, 2012, the electorate of Visalia Unified School District approved the \$60.1 million Measure E General Obligation Bonds, with greater than two-thirds or more of the votes in favor. The summarized text of the ballot language was as follows:

*"To improve the quality of education and relieve overcrowding, shall the Visalia Unified School District repair/replace roofs, make schools accessible for disabled students, provide up-to-date science labs, repair/update/equip worn-out schools, construct/equip new school facilities, and qualify for available State matching funds, by issuing \$60,100,000 of bonds at legal interest rates and extending, without raising, the current tax; with citizens' oversight, independent audits, all funds spent locally, and no money for employee or administrators' salaries?"*

In April 2013, the District issued current interest and capital appreciation General Obligation Bonds in an aggregate principal amount of \$33,999,971, maturing through August 2043, with interest rates ranging from 4% to 5.35%.

In June 2015, the District issued current interest General Obligation Bonds in an aggregate principal amount of \$26,100,000, maturing through August 2040, with interest rates ranging from 4% to 5%.

The financial activity related to the Measure E General Obligation Bonds is recorded in the District's Financial Activity Report for Fund 21 (Building Fund) in the District's audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2016.

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MEASURE E GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS  
OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, METHODOLOGY AND CONCLUSIONS

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## **OBJECTIVES**

The objective of our performance audit was to determine that the District expended Measure E General Obligation Bond funds for the year ended June 30, 2016 only for the purposes approved by the voters and only on the specific projects developed by the District's Board of Education, in accordance with the requirements of the published election materials specifying the intended use of Measure E General Obligation Bond proceeds.

## **SCOPE**

The District provided to us a list of all Measure E General Obligation Bond project expenditures for the year ended June 30, 2016 (the "List"). An approximate total of 379 transactions were identified, representing \$32,028,389 in expenditures from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

## **METHODOLOGY**

We performed the following procedures to the List of Measure E General Obligation Bond project expenditures for the year ended June 30, 2016:

- Verified the mathematical accuracy of the List.
- Reconciled the List to total bond expenditures as reported by the District in the District's audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2016, presented as the Building Fund.
- Interviewed District management related to controls over planning, bidding, contracting, expenditure of bond funds and financial reporting have been put in place and are working as documented.
- Documented District procedures and controls over planning, bidding, contracting, expenditure of bond funds and financial reporting.
- Performed test to determine that the District controls over planning, bidding, contracting, expenditure of bond funds and financial reporting have been put in place and are working as documented.
- Selected a sample of expenditures totaling \$6,590,329. The sample was selected to provide a representation across specific construction projects, vendors and expenditure amounts. The sample represented 20.58% of the total expenditure value. Verified that the expenditures were for the approved projects and were to repair/replace roofs, make schools accessible for disabled students, provide up-to-date science labs, repair/update/equip worn-out schools, construct/equip new school facilities as per bond language.

## **CONCLUSION**

The results of our tests indicated that, in all significant respects, Visalia Unified School District expended Measure E General Obligation Bond funds for the year ended June 30, 2016 only for the specific projects developed by the District's Governing Board and approved by the voters, in accordance with the requirements of the published election materials specifying the intended use of Measure E General Obligation Bond proceeds.