

**Measure G Annual Report for 2021
(2020-2021 Academic Year)**

May 4, 2021

**Prepared by the
Measure G Citizens' Oversight Committee**

**for the
Board of Trustees
Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District**

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I. Executive Summary

In an election in June of 2014, over two-thirds of Livermore voters approved the Measure G 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 G 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 G, an independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (the "Committee") has been convened annually to ensure that proceeds of the tax are spent wisely and only for the purposes named in Measure G. This current report is an assessment by the current Committee of the appropriateness of the Measure G expenditures for the FY2020-2021 academic year.

Measure G revenue for the current FY2020-2021 academic year totaled \$4,007,658 which consisted of \$3,992,340 from 28,930 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:

- Approximately 42.4% of the funds (\$1,700,284) were allocated for Elementary School Science Specialists and 9.1% (\$363,364) for Elementary Technology Specialists, representing a total of approximately 52% of the Parcel Tax Expenditure plan. This funded the equivalent of approximately 19 additional staff positions, specifically 15.58 FTE of Elementary School Science Specialists and 3.00 FTE of Elementary Technology Specialists.
- The Elementary Technology Specialists noted immediately above are known as the UNITE team, which stands for Utilizing New and Innovative Technology in Education. These technology specialists allocate their time at elementary school sites educating teachers as well as students. The technology programs in-place in the elementary schools are ongoing and have received benefit from multiple years for Measure G funding. Note: due to the unusual circumstances of the pandemic, one time COVID-19 funds were used to supplement and provide additional integrated technology support at both the elementary and secondary levels.
- Math, Science and Engineering within the middle and high schools were augmented with expenditures in this area of \$1,173,671, approximately 29% of the available funds.
- Across all schools, a total of \$264,058 was spent on technology, representing approximately 7% of the available funds.
- A total of \$226,281, or approximately 6% of the available funds, was allocated to keep classroom technology and instructional materials up-to-date. The school sites provided the committee with numerous examples of how the funds were used for this section of Measure G.
- To keep schools well maintained, \$200,000 or approximately 5% of the available funds were used to augment maintenance efforts throughout the LVJUSD.

- In 2020-2021, the STEM teacher retention rate was over 98% across the district, a notable accomplishment given the challenges of the COVID pandemic.
- Additional detail, from the prior years audited financial statements, demonstrate the LVJUSD has accounted for the Parcel Tax revenue and is trending to expense in the same manner as the prior year audited financial statements.

The Committee reviewed the provided documents, including the Ballot Measure Submittal Form, the full text of Measure G, FY2020-2021 revenue and expenditures by Measure G, LVJUSD Staffing Reports, and the LVJUSD 2020 Audit Report. The Committee concludes that all Measure G expenditures were appropriate towards 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.

The Committee also wishes to note that FY2020-2021 is the sixth year of special funding through Measure G, and since the measure was intended for seven years, the upcoming school year of FY2021-2022 will be the final year of Measure G funding. The Committee recognizes the significant value to Livermore students provided thus far by Measure G, and hopes that the LVJUSD will consider options to continue these benefits to STEM instruction, teachers, and materials in the years after FY2021-2022.

The Committee wishes to express their sincere thanks to the Staff of the LVJUSD who provided essential support for the Committee's work.

II. Introduction

On June 3, 2014, 72.41% of Livermore voters approved the Measure G Parcel Tax, authorizing the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) to levy an annual parcel tax of \$138 on each parcel of taxable real property. The stated purpose of Measure G 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. At the time of voter approval, Measure G included the two charter schools operated by the Tri-Valley Learning Corporation in Livermore, Livermore Valley Charter School and Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory High School.

Measure G thus ensured that Livermore schools would continue to receive a stable, reliable, local source of funding. Overall, the LVJUSD serves over 13,300 students in transitional kindergarten through 12th grade, at nine elementary campuses, two K-8 schools, three middle schools, two comprehensive high schools, and two alternative schools. Specifically, the Measure G funds would be used to:

- Provide advanced courses in math, science, and engineering,
- Keep schools well maintained,
- Attract and retain highly qualified teachers,
- Provide elementary school science and technology specialists,
- Keep classroom technology and instructional materials up-to-date and,
- To the extent that funds are available, to maintain academic programs, including the purchase of instructional equipment, materials, and supplies.

This Parcel Tax commenced on July 1, 2015 and remains in effect for seven fiscal years, with exemptions from the Parcel Tax for citizens over the age of 65 if such citizens applied for an exemption. As part of Measure G, a Citizens' Oversight Committee ("Committee") is convened annually to ensure that proceeds of the tax are spent wisely and only for the purposes named in Measure G.

This report covers the sixth fiscal year (FY2020-2021) of the Parcel Tax and details the Committee's assessment of how the funds were dispersed and used in this fiscal year.

III. Committee Membership, History and Process

Note: As a result of restrictions on in-person meetings resulting from the COVID pandemic, all meetings for this review cycle were held through online means.

The Committee was appointed by the Board of Trustees of the LVJUSD and was convened on February 24, 2021 with the following members:

Bryan Balazs, Chair*	Lorraine Purcell
Anette Saxe	David Struebing, Secretary*

*At this February 24 meeting, the Committee elected Bryan Balazs as Chair and David Struebing as Secretary.

Subsequent meetings were held on March 24 and April 21. For 2021, one member (Saxe) served the second year of her two-year term, one member (Balazs) continued in his second two-year term, one member (Struebing) served the first year of his second two-year term, and one new participating member (Purcell) joined the committee in the first year of her term. There were no alternates for this review cycle.

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. LVJUSD Staff provided reports, answered questions, and assisted the Committee as requested. Specifically, Committee members were greatly assisted in the performance of their duties by LVJUSD Staff Susan Kinder (Assistant Superintendent of Business Services), Teresa Fiscus (Director of Fiscal Services), and Kevin Grier (Director of Curriculum and Special Projects).

In the interim periods between the Committee’s meetings, a set of questions was developed that was distributed in March to the LVJUSD and its schools, with specific questions that would assist the Committee in preparing this report. Answers were received in a timely fashion, and the “writing assignments” for particular sections were assigned to Committee members. In late April, the report sections were collated into a draft document by the Committee Chair, with subsequent distribution to the members for any additional input and suggestions. This final report revision was issued in the beginning of May.

IV. FY2020-2021 Measure G Revenue, Parcels, Exemptions and Fees

Financial consultants Francisco & Associates provided information on the Measure G revenue for FY2020-2021, totaling \$4,007,658 that consisted of \$3,992,340 from 28,930 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 \$248,400 which was not collected for Measure G due to the senior exemption provision (65 or older) of this Parcel Tax. This exemption amount corresponded to a total of 1,800 valid parcels consisting of 1,684 previous and 106 new applications in Alameda County, and ten previous and zero new applications in Contra Costa County.

Thus, the LVJUSD was allocated \$4,007,658 of Measure G proceeds in FY2020-2021, with no Measure G carryover funding from the prior fiscal year of FY2019-2020. From this total, the LVJUSD pays an annual assessment fee to Alameda and Contra Costa counties that is used to offset the costs of collecting and tracking the Measure G funds through the property tax system, and in FY2020-2021, this assessment fee was \$80,000 (the same as in FY2019-2020). This fee represents approximately 2% of the overall Measure G revenue.

V. LVJUSD Programs Funded by Measure G

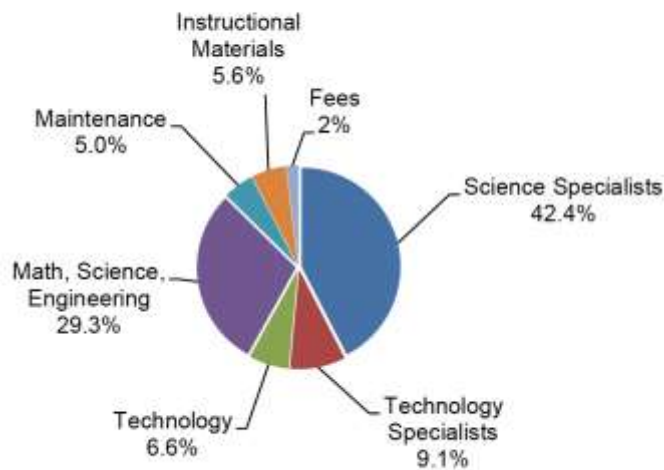
Based on the total of \$4,007,658 in Measure G revenue as detailed in the previous Section IV of this report, the breakdown of the FY2020-2021 expenditures is listed in the following table. Immediately following are specific details on how the funds were spent, with the six sections listed in the order that they appeared in the stated Measure G goals.

Expenditures

Elementary Science Specialists	\$1,700,284	42.4%
Elementary Technology Specialists	\$363,364	9.1%
Technology	\$264,058	6.6%
Math, Science and Engineering	\$1,173,671	29.3%
Maintenance	\$200,000	5%
Instructional Materials	\$226,281	5.6%
Fees paid to County	\$80,000	2%
Total	\$4,007,658	100%

The above expenditures are similar to those in previous academic years, although there are minor year-to-year variations amongst the categories.

2020/21 Parcel Tax Expenditures



Based on the information provided to the Committee by the Staff, the Committee is satisfied that the Measure G funds received by the LVJUSD in FY2020-2021 were expended, or if expended as budgeted* will be spent, in accordance with Measure G. Examples of how Measure G funds have been, or will be, spent are detailed below and are categorized according to the stated purposes of Measure G.

*As the LVJUSD fiscal year ends on June 30, a few remaining (although budgeted) expenditures had not been completed at the time of writing this report.

Provide Advanced Courses in Math, Science and Engineering

Analyzed by Committee Member Lorraine Purcell

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. At the elementary school level and at the two K-8 schools, funds were used for staffing of 15.58 FTE Science Specialists who will prepare students for more advanced coursework at the middle and high school levels. At the middle and high schools, funding was used for staffing 10.0 FTE math, science, and engineering teachers. This past year, due to COVID restrictions on in-person instruction, these funds were especially necessary to support the new technology requirements to support students and staff during mandatory distance learning.

Keep Schools Well Maintained

Analyzed by Committee Member Lorraine Purcell

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 appurtenant devices;
- Fire sprinkler inspections including the inspection of sprinkler heads, supply lines, valves, and appurtenant devices and any repairs to these systems if needed;
- Wheelchair lifts and elevator lift inspections and repairs to keep them in compliance with updated safety regulations;
- 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 to maintain security at all our District locations;
- Fire extinguisher yearly inspections, and repairs or replacements, as needed;
- Payment of any fees related to maintaining our Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registration number with the State of California for the handling of EPA-registered materials for use in the Science Classrooms and at the Maintenance and Grounds Departments.

Attract and Retain Highly Qualified Teachers

Analyzed by Committee Member Anette Saxe

The LVJUSD makes every effort to attract and retain highly qualified teachers. Currently, as of the 20/21 school year, the district employed 609 fully credentialed teachers, 25 with partial credentials and 6 who taught outside their credential subject area. The District regularly announces open positions using the EDJOIN.org job boards, the Human Resources department conducts recruitment events for qualified teachers, and substitute openings are regularly posted through community boards such as Peach Jar.

Provide Elementary School Science and Technology Specialists

Analyzed by Committee Member Anette Saxe

The LVJUSD had assigned 15.58 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) for Science Elementary School Specialist and 3.0 FTE Technology Specialists at a cost of \$363,384. The district spent \$1,700,284 on Elementary Science Specialists. The current sites that receive a Science Elementary School Specialist are:

SCHOOL	ENROLLMENT	TOTAL COST	FTE
ALTAMONT CREEK	612	\$ 176,542	1.43
ARROYO SECO	641	\$ 139,349	1.57
CROCE	559	\$ 158,019	1.50
JACKSON AVENUE	486	\$ 127,148	1.36
MARYLIN AVENUE	361	\$ 141,714	1.22
LAWRENCE	359	\$ 124,489	1.00
RANCHO LAS POSITAS	602	\$ 158,260	1.50
SMITH	665	\$ 167,566	1.64
SUNSET	741	\$ 209,431	1.86
CHRISTENSEN	642		
EAST AVENUE	586		
JUNCTION K-8	930	\$ 141,457	1.14
MENDENHALL	921		
MICHELL K-8	780	\$ 156,309	1.36

Keep Classroom Technology and Instructional Materials Up-To-Date

Analyzed by Committee Member David Struebing

The LVJUSD received \$264,058, or approximately 6.6% of the available funds in FY2020-2021 to keep classroom technology and instructional materials up-to-date. The School sites provided the committee with numerous examples of how the funds were used for this section of Measure G.

Altamont Creek

Measure G funds were used to update staff technology, purchase online assessment progress monitoring platforms, and purchase online licenses for enrichment and differentiated instruction.

Arroyo Seco

Measure G funds were used to update staff technology and to purchase online programs to monitor progress. We also were able to purchase licenses for enrichment and differentiated instruction.

Croce Elementary

Measure G funds were used to update staff technology (computers and printers) in the school office, library, and classrooms.

Emma C. Smith Elementary

Measure G Funds were used to update staff technology, purchase online assessment progress monitoring platforms, and purchase online licenses for enrichment and differentiated instruction.

Jackson Avenue Elementary

Measure G Funds were used to support students by updating and supporting our teacher work stations to enable distance learning to be streamlined and effective.

Joe Michell (K-8)

Measure G funds were used to update technology used in Project Lead the Way (PLTW) classes which includes: iPads, Chromebooks, and student laptops. All TK-8 grade students learn new PLTW modules each year, one module building upon the Next Generation Science Standards.

Junction Avenue (K-8)

Measure G funds were used to update staff technology, purchase online assessment progress monitoring platforms, and purchase online licenses for enrichment and differentiated instruction.

Lawrence Elementary

Funds were used to update staff technology, purchase online assessment progress monitoring platforms, and purchase online licenses for enrichment and differentiated instruction.

Marylin Avenue Elementary

Measure G funds were used to purchase online math and assessment programs as well as repair and replace student Chromebooks.

Rancho Elementary

Measure G funds were used to purchase new Chromebooks for student use. These new Chromebooks replaced outdated Chromebooks that no longer met the needs of our instructional programs.

Sunset Elementary

Measure G funds were used to update staff laptops to support online instruction.

Christensen Middle School

Measure G Funds were used to update teacher laptops, purchase document cameras, and student Chromebooks. Progress was measured by an increase in student achievement in use of technology.

East Avenue Middle School

Measure G funds have been primarily used to purchase document cameras and DVD drives. Scanners for our Special Education Teachers and bar code scanners for our library were also purchased.

Mendenhall Middle School

MacBook laptops were purchased for instruction. Teachers were able to better reach their students using innovative pedagogical practices. In turn, students were more engaged and able to demonstrate their learning using their own devices.

Del Valle High School

Measure G Funds were used to update teacher laptops, purchase document cameras, microphones, and student Chromebooks. Progress was measured by an increase in attendance and graduation rate.

Granada High School

Measure G funds were used to purchase teacher laptops, a student computer lab (36 computers) for Digital Photography classes, a site license for Turnitin.com, and premium subscriptions to Pear Deck. Progress was measured through student enrollment, program and course completion, meeting A-G requirements, and graduation rates.

Livermore High School

Funds were used to purchase math curricula and supplemental materials, a site license for Turnitin.com, 20 MacBook Airs for teachers, 16 Chromebook chargers, 30 Chromebooks and other miscellaneous equipment for connectivity. Students benefited by being better able to access math curricula, better able to edit and analyze their writing, and by being able to access their courses online. Student progress was measured through course completion, CTE pathway completion, meeting of A-G requirements, and graduation rates.

Vineyard Alternative

Measure G funds were used to update teaching technology which includes teacher laptops, and updated projectors with accompanying screens. Some funds were also used for Chromebooks for student use. Student progress is measured by increased student engagement and performance, which is demonstrated by their positive attendance and the successful completion of courses and/or coursework.

To the Extent Funds are Available, to Maintain Academic Programs, Including the Purchase of Instructional Equipment, Materials and Supplies

Analyzed by Committee Member David Struebing

The Parcel Tax instructional funds allowed the school district to provide additional resources and science laboratory supplies for the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) schools. The funds also help to cover the cost of consumable workbooks that accompany textbooks in the classrooms.

VI. Conclusions

Overall, the Committee concludes that the \$4,007,658 of Measure G revenue for the LVJUSD in FY2020-2021 did indeed advance the Measure's stated purpose to 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. The benefits of Measure G funds have been documented across all the schools within the LVJUSD, the expenses are within budget, appropriate for the Measure's intent, and have demonstrated a commitment to keeping Livermore schools up-to-date and well maintained.

The Committee also wishes to note that FY2020-2021 is the sixth year of special funding through Measure G, and since the measure was intended for seven years, the upcoming school year of FY2021-2022 will be the final year of Measure G funding. The Committee recognizes the significant value to Livermore students provided thus far by Measure G, and hopes that the LVJUSD will consider options to continue these benefits to STEM instruction, teachers, and materials in the years after FY2021-2022.

Finally, the Committee members wish to offer their sincere appreciation for informative, timely, and accurate efforts provided by LVJUSD Staff members Susan Kinder (Assistant Superintendent of Business Services), Teresa Fiscus (Director of Fiscal Services), and Kevin Grier (Director of Curriculum and Special Projects).

VI. Signatures

Respectfully Submitted,

Bryan Balazs, Chair

Lorraine Purcell, Committee Member

Anette Saxe, Committee Member

David Struebing, Secretary