

Southern Kern Unified School District

Measure H November 2024

“To upgrade science, technology, engineering, arts and math classrooms, repair leaky roofs, improve student safety/security, build a new school to reduce overcrowding, improve vocational/career classrooms, renovate plumbing, fire safety and electrical systems, remove asbestos and ensure clean drinking water, shall Southern Kern Unified School District’s measure be adopted authorizing \$59,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, \$60 per \$100,000 assessed value, raising \$3,910,000 annually while bonds are outstanding, with independent audits, citizen oversight, and all money controlled locally?”

PROJECT LIST

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Kern Unified School District certifies that it has evaluated the District’s urgent and critical school needs, including school and student safety issues, enrollment trends, class size reduction, overcrowding, energy efficiency and computer technology, seismic safety requirements, and aging, outdated or deteriorating school buildings in developing the scope of projects to be funded. The Board of Trustees will prioritize the key health and safety and sustainability needs so that the most critical school site needs are addressed. The District conducted an evaluation at all school sites and received public input in developing the scope of school projects to be funded. In approving this Project List, the Board of Trustees determines that the District should adhere to specific FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY safeguards such as:

- (a) Sacramento will be prohibited from taking any of the funds raised.
- (b) All expenditures will be subject to annual independent financial and performance audits.
- (c) No funds will be used for administrators’ salaries and pensions.
- (d) All funds will be subject to local control and provide improvements at all of our schools.
- (e) An independent citizens’ oversight committee will be appointed to ensure that all funds are spent only as authorized.

The Project List includes the following types of projects:

- Repair, replace, rehabilitate, or construct as needed, leaky roofs, plumbing, electrical, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems;
- Rehabilitate, repair and provide drinking fountains and rehabilitate, repair, modernize and upgrade water and plumbing systems;
- Improve, update, and modernize health, safety and security features of schools, classrooms, and other school and District facilities;
- Modernize, update, rehabilitate, repair, construct and reconstruct parking and student drop off areas to improve campus traffic and safety;
- Update, modernize and improve school and school facility accessibility, including site access, parking, staff and student restrooms;
- Improve, upgrade and modernize technology infrastructure for computers and Internet access;

- Construct, modernize, renovate, and expand classrooms, restrooms, labs, career technical spaces, and other school facilities;
- Replace portable classrooms with permanent structures;
- Plan, design and construct a new school and related facilities;
- Upgrade, repair and expand school grounds, tracks, fields, playgrounds and other infrastructure and utility systems, including exterior lighting, pathways, shade structures and other outdoor areas, and landscaping improvements, including irrigation; and
- Furnish and equip classrooms, school facilities, and other projects listed herein.

Listed building, repair and rehabilitation projects and upgrades may be completed as needed. Each project is assumed to include its share of furniture, equipment, architectural, engineering, and similar planning costs, program/project management, staff training expenses and a customary contingency for unforeseen design and construction costs. In addition to the projects stated above, proceeds from the sale of bonds will also be used for payment of facility-related construction costs, the acquisition of land, the payment of the costs of preparation of all facility planning, facility assessment reviews, facility master plan updates, environmental studies (including environmental investigation, remediation and monitoring) and construction documentation, the acquisition or prepayment of outstanding ground leases, acquiring and leasing of real property for school facilities or new school construction, including the purchase of leased facilities and the refinancing of outstanding lease obligations, including, but not limited to, the refinancing of existing lease obligations of the District, acquiring and leasing of property for temporary housing of dislocated District activities caused by bond-financed Projects and the leasing or acquisition of staff parking or a transportation lot for school buses. Bond proceeds may be used to replace and upgrade technology infrastructure, which includes all necessary infrastructure, hardware, and software, and is not limited to wiring and electrical systems; computers; tablets; projectors and display systems; portable interface devices; centralized storage and backup systems; uninterruptible power supplies; racks; servers; switches; routers; modules; sound systems; access control systems; printers; digital white boards; upgraded voice-over IP; videoconferencing equipment; communications software and systems; collaborative systems; network management software; enterprise-wide software systems and network security/firewall; wiring, cabling and fiber-optics; Wi-Fi capabilities; access points; other miscellaneous equipment and software; and other modern equipment conducive to a modern learning environment.

In addition to the projects listed above, the District may construct new classrooms and school facilities and/or a new school. The repair and renovation of each of the existing school facilities, as well as the construction of a new school, may include, but not be limited to, some or all of the following: construction and/or repair or renovation of student and staff restrooms; installation, repair and replacement of heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems; construction, installation and upgrade of facilities for energy efficiency and to reduce fire risks; construction or repair and replacement of

worn-out and leaky roofs, insulation, windows, walls, doors and drinking fountains, and construction and installation of the same; demolition of unsafe school facilities; installation of wiring and electrical systems to safely accommodate computers, technology and other electrical devices and needs; installation, repairing and replacing fire alarms, emergency communications and security systems; surfacing, resurfacing or replacing of hard courts and floors; turf, irrigation and sprinkler systems and campus landscaping; building new and/or renovating existing gymnasiums, pools and high school stadiums including constructing or acquisition of scoreboards, and other furnishings and equipment; deferred maintenance projects; construction, rehabilitation or improvement of signage; upgrading, rehabilitating or replacing inadequate libraries, multi-purpose rooms, food service, cafeterias, kitchens and administrative support spaces, or construction of the same; upgrading locker rooms; installing or rehabilitating lunch shelters, artificial turf, and bleachers; improving sanitation and recycling; construction of or expansion of parking; installing or rehabilitating interior and exterior painting and floor covering; removing and replacing portable classrooms; installing or rehabilitating covered walkways or shelters; construction, rehabilitation or upgrading school site cafeterias and kitchens; repairing rubberized play apparatus surfaces; demolition; construction, repair or rehabilitation of various forms of storage and support spaces; upgrading or rehabilitation of classrooms; repairing, upgrading and installing interior and exterior lighting systems; installing or replacing water and sewer lines and other plumbing systems; and installation of new security fences and systems and replacing outdated security fences and security systems. Any project herein may include construction or reconstruction of any facilities to comply with accessibility requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act; the removal or abatement of 15- asbestos, lead paint, mold or other hazardous materials; or improvements to meet State seismic and other structural integrity standards.

Any of the projects listed herein may be completed in conjunction with other public agencies, including education, city, county or college institutions, for the construction of libraries, child care centers, multi-purpose rooms, gymnasiums, athletic facilities, or any other authorized project, to increase the efficient use of bond proceeds. Projects and upgrades listed above may be completed as needed, and any of such projects may or may not be completed as a joint use project with another public entity, as determined by the Board. The District may also pursue public-private partnerships or partnerships with nonprofit entities to complete any of the projects listed herein and reduce costs to the District, in compliance with applicable law, and at the direction of the Board.

The allocation of bond proceeds will be affected by the District's receipt of State matching funds and the final costs of each Project, and completion of the bond projects listed above is subject to the availability of adequate funding to the District. Approval of Measure H does not guarantee that the proposed Project or Projects within the District that are the subject of bonds under Measure H will be funded beyond the local revenues generated by Measure H. The District's proposal for the project or projects may assume the receipt of matching state funds, which could be subject to appropriation by the

Legislature or approval of a statewide bond measure or additional measures. In the absence of State matching funds, which the District will aggressively pursue to reduce the District's share of the costs of the Projects, the District may not be able to complete some of the Projects listed above.

The final cost of each project will be determined as plans are finalized, construction bids are awarded and projects are completed. Based on the final costs of each project, certain projects described above may be delayed or may not be completed. Demolition of existing facilities and reconstruction of facilities scheduled for repair and upgrade may occur, if the Board determines that such an approach would be more cost-effective in creating more enhanced and operationally efficient campuses. Necessary site preparation/restoration may occur in connection with new construction, renovation or remodeling, or installation or removal of relocatable classrooms, including ingress and egress, removing, replacing or installing irrigation, storm drain, and utility lines, trees and landscaping, relocating fire access roads, and acquiring any necessary easements, licenses, or rights of way to the property. Proceeds of the bonds may be used to pay or reimburse the District for the costs of District staff when performing work on or necessary and incidental to bond projects. Bond proceeds shall only be expended for the specific purposes identified herein. When specific projects are included herein, they are presented to provide examples and are not intended to limit the generality of the broader description of authorized projects. The order in which particular projects are listed is not intended to indicate priority for funding or completion. Projects will be accomplished to address deficiencies and priorities as enumerated by the Board or in the District's facilities master plan. In addition, authorized projects include reimbursements for paid project costs and paying and/or prepaying interim or previously obtained financing for the types of projects included on the project list, such as bond anticipation notes or lease financings including certificates of participation relating to facilities projects and/or equipment previously financed.

As required by the California Constitution, the proceeds from the sale of the bonds will be used only for the provision of school facilities by construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, refinancing or replacement of school facilities, including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities, or the acquisition or lease of real property for school facilities, and not for any other purpose, including teacher and administrator salaries and other school operating expenses.

The District will conduct an annual, independent performance audit to ensure that the funds have been expended only on projects included in the Project List set forth above.

The District will conduct an annual, independent financial audit of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds until all of those proceeds have been expended on projects included in the Project List set forth above.

Pursuant to Section 15772 of the Education Code, the Board will appoint a citizens' oversight committee and conduct annual independent audits to assure that bond proceeds are spent only on projects included in the Project List set forth above and for no other purposes.

NO ADMINISTRATOR SALARIES. PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THE BONDS AUTHORIZED BY THIS PROPOSITION SHALL BE USED ONLY FOR THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION, OR REPLACEMENT OF SCHOOL FACILITIES, INCLUDING THE FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF FACILITIES, AND NOT FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE, INCLUDING PENSIONS, TEACHER AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR SALARIES AND OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES.

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY. THE EXPENDITURE OF BOND MONEY ON THESE PROJECTS IS SUBJECT TO STRINGENT FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS. BY LAW, PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL AUDITS WILL BE PERFORMED ANNUALLY, AND ALL BOND EXPENDITURES WILL BE MONITORED BY AN INDEPENDENT CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (EDUCATION CODE SECTION 15278 ET SEQ.) TO ENSURE THAT FUNDS ARE SPENT AS PROMISED AND SPECIFIED. THE CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MUST INCLUDE, AMONG OTHERS, REPRESENTATIVES OF A BONA FIDE TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION, A BUSINESS ORGANIZATION AND A SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATION. NO DISTRICT EMPLOYEES OR VENDORS ARE ALLOWED TO SERVE ON THE CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.