



Excellence and Equity in Education

Nancy Magee - County Superintendent of Schools

September 11, 2025

Paige Winikoff
President, Governing Board
Las Lomas Elementary School District
1011 Altschul Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025-6706

RE: Local Control and Accountability Plan and Adopted Budget – Fiscal Year 2025-26

Dear Board President Winikoff:

The San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) has completed its review of Las Lomas Elementary School District's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Adopted Budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year pursuant to Education Codes 42127 and 52070.

A. LOCAL CONTROL ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (LCAP)

The County Superintendent is required to approve the District's LCAP if it is determined that the following criteria have been met:

- The LCAP adheres to the template adopted by the State Board of Education (*EC 52064*)
- The budget includes expenditures sufficient to implement the specific actions and strategies included in the LCAP
- The LCAP adheres to the expenditure requirements for funds apportioned on the basis of the number and concentration of unduplicated pupils (*EC 42238.02* and *42238.03*)
- The LCAP includes the required calculations to determine whether there is a carryover requirement, and if applicable, includes a description of the planned uses of the specific funds and a description of how the planned uses are to be considered as contributing towards meeting the increased or improved services requirement *{(EC 52070(d)(4))}*

The San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools has approved your Local Control Accountability Plan for the 2025-26 school year, pursuant to Education Code (EC) Section 52070.5(d). California Education Code requires the County Superintendent to review and approve the LCAP prior to the approval of the LEA's adopted budget per EC Section 42127(2). Your board approved LCAP will be posted on the SMCOE website.

B. ADOPTED BUDGET

In accordance with Education Code Section 42127, the County Superintendent of Schools has examined the Adopted Budget of Las Lomas Elementary School District (the District) for fiscal year 2025-26 to determine if it complies with the criteria and standards adopted by the State Board of Education, allows the District to meet its financial obligations during the fiscal year, and is consistent with a financial plan that will allow the District to meet its multi-year financial commitments. The County Superintendent of Schools is also required to determine whether the Adopted Budget includes the expenditures necessary to implement the LCAP

The County Office's review and analysis confirms that the 2025-26 Budget, adopted by the Governing Board on June 11, 2025, meets the requirements outlined in Education Code 42127(c).

The San Mateo County Office of Education **approves** Las Lomas Elementary School District's 2025-26 Adopted Budget with the following comments:

The 2025-26 Adopted Budget shows a \$2.7 million decrease in the General Fund Balance. Compared to 2024-25 Estimated Actuals, deficit spending is projected to decrease by \$1.1 million. Total revenues are projected to increase by \$609,000 primarily driven by a \$1.4 million increase in LCFF revenues and a \$782,000 decrease in local revenues from reductions in donations.

Total expenditures are projected to decrease by \$475,000. Salaries and benefits expenditures will increase by \$869,000 due to step and column adjustments and a negotiated salary increase of 4%. Services and other operating expenditures will decrease by \$1.2 million due to the removal of one-time grants.

RESERVES

The state-recommended minimum reserve for Las Lomas Elementary School District is 3% of total General Fund expenditures. The District projects approximately \$3.3 million or 7.63% in available reserves of which \$1.3 million is for economic uncertainties.

The Special Reserve Fund (Fund 17) has an assigned fund balance of \$7.4 million which was not included in the calculation of total available reserves.

MULTI-YEAR PROJECTIONS (MYP)

Reserves are projected to increase to 20.31% in 2026-27 and 19.77% in 2027-28. The fund balance for Special Reserve Fund (Fund 17) of \$7.4 million is included in the reserve calculation for both outyears.

Total revenues are projected to increase by \$1.5m in 2026-27 and \$2.4 million in 2027-28. Property tax revenues are expected to grow by approximately 4% each year averaging \$1.2 million. Local revenue is projected to increase by \$423,000 in 2026-27 due to an increase in Foundation revenue and rental income.

Total expenditures are projected to increase by \$867,000 in 2026-27 and \$605,000 in 2027-28. Salaries and benefits include step and column increases of 1.5% for Certificated and 2.5% for Classified employees. In 2026-27, an additional 4% Cost-of-Living Adjustment is added to salaries. Books and supplies, services, and other operating expenditures are projected to decrease \$447,000 due to the removal of one-time funding.

DEFICIT SPENDING

The multi-year projections show a deficit of \$2.1 million in the Unrestricted General Fund for the current year followed by deficits of \$1.8 million in 2026-27 and \$119,000 in 2027-28.

The County Office advises the District to closely monitor the budget and assess opportunities for revenue enhancements or budget reductions to eliminate deficit spending.

CASH FLOW

The District submitted cash flow projections for 2025-26 and 2026-27 showing negative cash balances in the months of October and November for 2025-26 and from September to November for 2026-27. Negative cash balances will be covered with cash in other funds.

The projected year-end cash balances are approximately \$4.4 million in 2025-26 and \$2.4 million in 2026-27.

The County Superintendent advises the district to review cash balances across all funds monthly to ensure they remain positive. The San Mateo County Controller's Office allows a negative balance in any fund only if the total district-wide cash balance is positive.

The District is reminded that the San Mateo County Controller's Office does not allow negative cash balances in any account at the end of the fiscal year.

OTHER FUNDS

The District maintains positive fund balances across all other funds. There are no significant changes in other District funds from 2024-25 Estimated Actuals to 2025-26 Adopted Budget.

SALARY NEGOTIATIONS

The District has settled negotiations with all bargaining units for 2025-26 which was included in the 2025-26 Adopted Budget.

We commend the work done by the Board and district staff to develop this year's LCAP and Budget. Please contact us if you have any questions about our review of your district's 2025-26 LCAP or Budget.

Sincerely,



Kevin J. Bultema
Deputy Superintendent, Business Services

kbultema@smcoe.org
650-802-5511



Marco Chavez
Deputy Superintendent, Educational
Services

mchavez@smcoe.org
650-802-5311

Enclosures

- c: Erik Burmeister, Superintendent, Las Lomas ESD
Dr. Valerie Park, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction, Las Lomas ESD
Mei Chan, Chief Business Officer, Las Lomas ESD
Nancy Magee, County Superintendent of Schools, SMCOE
Joy Dardenelle, Executive Director, District Improvement & Support, SMCOE
Dhanya Unni, Executive Director, District Business Services, SMCOE

