

Measure G Annual Report for 2020

June 1, 2020

**Prepared by
Measure G Citizens' Oversight Committee
for the
Board of Trustees
Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District**

Table of Contents

I. Executive Summary.....	1
II. Introduction	2
III. Committee Membership, History and Process.....	3
IV. FY2019-2020 Measure G Revenue, Parcels, Exemptions and Fees.....	4
V. LVJUSD Programs Funded by Measure G	4
VI. Conclusions	11
VI. Respectfully Submitted.....	12

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 FY2019-2020 academic year.

Measure G revenue for FY2019-2020 totaled \$3,999,516 which consisted of \$3,983,784 from 28,868 valid real estate parcels in Alameda County and \$15,732 from 114 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:

- 10.00 Teacher FTEs (Full-Time Equivalents) at a cost of \$1,116,512 or approximately 28% of the available funds in FY2019-2020 were used to strengthen the solid foundation in STEM for LVJUSD students.
- To keep schools well maintained, \$200,000, or approximately 5% of the available funds, was used to augment maintenance efforts throughout the LVJUSD.
- Retention of the LVJUSD's teachers is a high priority, and the LVJUSD makes several external efforts to attract quality teachers throughout the school year such as hosting an annual Job Fair. The LVJUSD is a five-time Bay Area News Group Top Workplace designee (2012, 2013, 2016, 2017, and 2018) and has been able to attract a large pool of candidates through outreach hiring efforts such as Handshake, Ed-Join, Peach Jar, and LinkedIn. In addition, the LVJUSD has a high rate of teacher retention with a teacher retention rate (not including teacher retirements) overall of 90%, and 90% for science teachers as well.
- Approximately 42% of the funds (\$1,692,920) were allocated for Elementary School Science Specialists and 12% (\$490,630) for Elementary Technology Specialists, representing a total of approximately 54% of the Parcel Tax Expenditure plan. This funded the equivalent of approximately 20 additional teaching staff positions, specifically 15.85 FTE of Elementary School Science Specialists and 4.00 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 spend their time at elementary school sites educating teachers as well as students. The technology programs in-place in the elementary schools are on-going and have received benefit from multiple years of Measure G funding.
- A total of \$252,247, or approximately 6% of the available funds in FY2019-2020, 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.
- Additional detail, from the prior years audited financial statements, demonstrates that 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, FY2019-2020 revenue and expenditures by Measure G, LVJUSD Staffing Reports, and the LVJUSD 2019 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 wishes to express its 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 13,800 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 fourth fiscal year (FY2019-2020) 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

The Committee was appointed by the Board of Trustees of the LVJUSD and was convened on February 13, 2020 with the following members:

G. Bryan Balazs	Anette Saxe, Secretary*
Robert DeLiso	Nicolle Sardella
David Struebing, Chair*	Lorraine Purcell (Alternate)

*At this February 13 meeting, the Committee elected David Struebing as Chair and Anette Saxe as Secretary.

The Committee’s first meeting was held on February 13, 2020, with a subsequent meeting held on March 12, both at the Board Conference Room at the District Office. The third meeting held on April 16 was via WebEx due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For 2020, three of the members (DeLiso, Sadella, Struebing) were serving the second year of their two-year term, one member (Balazs) continued in his second two-year term, and one new members (Saxe) joined the Committee in the first year of her term. Purcell was selected as an alternate for the 2020 Committee.

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 (Fiscal Director), 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. FY2019-2020 Measure G Revenue, Parcels, Exemptions and Fees

Financial consultants Francisco & Associates provided information on the Measure G revenue for FY2019-2020, totaling \$3,999,516 which consisted of \$3,983,784 from 28,868 valid real estate parcels in Alameda County and \$15,732 from 114 valid parcels in Contra Costa County. Not included in the total funds are \$247,572 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 1,918 parcels consisting of 1,794 previous and 124 new applications in Alameda County, and 10 previous and 0 new applications in Contra Costa County.

Thus, the LVJUSD was allocated \$3,999,516 of Measure G proceeds in FY2019-2020, with no Measure G carryover funding from the prior fiscal year of FY2018-2019. 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 FY2019-2020, this assessment fee was \$80,000 (the same as in FY2018-2019). This fee represents approximately 2% of the overall Measure G revenue.

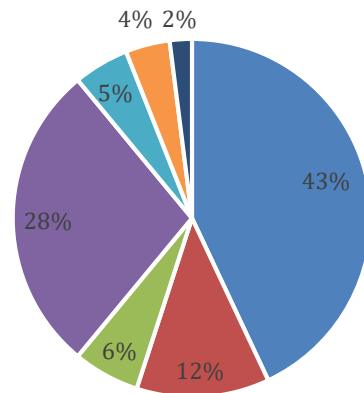
V. LVJUSD Programs Funded by Measure G

Based on the total of \$3,999,516 in Measure G revenue as detailed in the previous Section IV of this report, the breakdown of the FY2019-2020 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	\$1,692,920	42%
Elementary Technology Specialists	\$490,630	12%
Technology	\$252,247	6%
Math, Science, and Engineering	\$1,116,512	28%
Maintenance	\$200,000	5%
Instructional Materials	\$167,207	4%
Fees paid to County	\$80,000	2%
Total	\$3,999,516	100%

19/20 Parcel Tax Expenditures



- Elementary Science Specialists
- Elementary Technology Specialists
- Technology
- Math, Science and Engineering
- Maintenance
- Instructional Materials
- Fees paid to County

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 FY2019-2020 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 Nicole Sardella

In FY2019-2020, the LVJUSD used Measure G funds to provide 10.00 FTEs at a cost of \$1,116,512, or 28% of the total funds available for this reporting period. Two K-8 schools (Junction and Mitchell) and 3 middle schools received a total of \$383,670 for 3.75 FTEs dedicated to support the foundation in STEM for students at these schools. For three LVJUSD high schools, a total of \$732,842 was allocated to this area. This amount supported 6.25 FTEs for the high schools (Del Valle Continuation, Granada, and Livermore High). As compared to FY2018-19, this represents an increase of \$49,960 (0.04% higher).

Parcel tax funds are used throughout Livermore elementary schools to support STEM education focusing on math, science, and engineering. The funding provides for Science Specialists at all sites, which ensures our students have a solid foundation in STEM and are prepared for advanced courses in high school. Secondary sites use funds to purchase technology which supports needs in advanced math, science, and engineering courses.

Examples of advanced courses are: Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics; AP Calculus; International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematics SL/HL; AP Biology; IB Biology SL/HL; AP Chemistry; IB Chemistry SL/HL; AP Physics; IB Physics SL/HL; Principles of Engineering; Civil Engineering & Architecture; and AP Computer Science.

Keep Schools Well Maintained

Analyzed by Committee Member Bryan Balazs

In accordance with the provisions of Measure G, \$200,000 (approximately 5% of the available funds in FY2019-2020) was used to augment maintenance efforts throughout the District. Fortunately, this work was completed before the school shutdowns in early 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The main focus of this year’s apportionment was dedicated to safety and security testing, inspections, maintenance, and repairs. In the area of fire safety, District-wide work included fire alarm system inspections, fire sprinkler system inspections and repairs, fire extinguisher service, and inspecting and maintaining kitchen hood fire suppression systems. Other safety and security work included wheelchair and elevator lift inspections, the installation of large ventilation fans for gymnasiums, pavement safety striping, automotive lift inspections, security fencing, and classroom hazardous material disposal. Other maintenance work done with the Measure G funds included roof leak repair, testing of domestic water backflow devices, pest control, and the purchase of uniforms for skilled trades workers, custodians, and groundskeepers.

Attract and Retain Highly Qualified Teachers

Analyzed by Committee Member Anette Saxe

The Livermore Joint Unified School District makes every effort to attract and retain highly qualified teachers. Currently, as of the 19/20 school year, the district employed 631 fully credentialed teachers, 25 with partial credentials and 7 who taught outside their credential subject area.

Teacher Credential Information	
Livermore Valley JUSD	
Teachers	19-20
With a full credential	631
Without a full credential	25
Teaching outside subject area of competence (with full credential)	7

Provide Elementary School Science and Technology Specialists

Analyzed by Committee Member Bob DeLiso

The FY2019-2020 Parcel Tax Expenditure plan allowed for approximately 42% of its budget or \$1,652,920 for Elementary School Science Specialists, and 12% or \$490,630 for Elementary Technology Specialists. This represents approximately 54% of the Parcel Tax Expenditure plan. This plan allows for funding the equivalent of approximately 20 additional staff positions. More specifically, the Parcel Tax Expenditure Plan funds 15.85 FTE of Elementary School Science Specialists and 4.00 FTE Elementary Technology Specialists. [One FTE represents the equivalent of one full-time position; for example, one FTE may fund portions of multiple staff persons' time.]

The funding level for FY2019-2020 is very similar to the funding level for the previous fiscal year, FY2018-2019. In both years there were 19.9 FTE positions funded. In the District's nine elementary schools and two K-8 schools, the staffing levels were funded similarly. The technology specialists spend their time at elementary school sites educating teachers as well as students. The technology programs in-place in the elementary schools are on-going and have received benefit from multiple years for Measure G funding.

Specific benefits from this fiscal year funding at each school are described below:

Altamont Creek

Measure G funds have allowed our students to experience hands-on Project Lead the Way (PLTW) science activities from our Elementary School Science Specialist. The Specialist works closely with the classroom teachers to enhance science instruction.

Arroyo Seco

Measure G funds have allowed our students to have hands-on learning experiences through the support of the Elementary School Science Specialist. Our Science Specialist works closely with the classroom teachers to enhance student learning. The Elementary School Technology Specialists work closely with teachers to provide them with support around technology in the classroom and in Makerspace.

Croce Elementary

The Elementary School Science Specialists provide weekly hands-on lessons in the lab to enhance and extend science lessons in our classrooms. These experts, with their knowledge of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), help students to be better prepared for the State CAASPP Science exams. These experts extend their influence by promoting and assisting with Science Odyssey projects and teaching the Scientific Method, as well as coordinating family science events with community and teacher support. They have also helped support the Makerspace program.

Emma C. Smith Elementary

Measure G funds have given our students the ability to turn a paper and pencil lesson into a "hands-on activity" learning experience in a lab setting. The Elementary School Science Specialists are delivering content and providing classroom staff learning opportunities to work toward essential standards.

Jackson Avenue Elementary

With Measure G funds, our students in 1st through 5th grade have the benefit of science lab twice a week for 40 minutes. Our students are exposed to Project Lead the Way (PLTW) technology and curriculum in our science classes. Teachers also have had access to one-on-one support (the Elementary School Technology Specialists) to implement different technology platforms, strategies, and integration for our students both in and outside the classroom. Technology specialists support repairs and updates on both student and teacher technology.

Joe Michell K-8

Students benefit by having Elementary School Science Specialists who design experiential learning experiences that connect the California Science Content Standards with real world applications. This is accomplished through Project Lead the Way (PLTW) lessons that empower students to adopt a design-thinking mindset to become creative, collaborative problem-solvers.

Junction Avenue K-8

Junction K-8 School gained a full-time Elementary Science Specialist for 1st through 5th grade classes. While teachers teach science in the classroom, the lessons in the lab come alive through the Elementary Science Specialist. In this rich environment, students experience hands-on labs using scientific methods, using Project Lead the Way (PLTW) STEM activities, working on their Science Fair projects, or conducting research with a retired LLNL volunteer. Junction is proud to host our district-wide annual Science Odyssey that displays our students' science projects as well as their science knowledge, thanks to Measure G resources.

Lawrence Elementary

Measure G funds allow students to experience hands-on science activities from the Elementary Science Specialist. The Specialist works closely with the classroom teachers to enhance science instruction.

Marylin Avenue Elementary

Measure G has provided science instruction by a credentialed science teacher. Students experience hands-on lessons that are supported by the classroom teacher.

Rancho Elementary

Rancho benefits from Measure G funds by providing high quality science instruction and hands on lab activities. Engaging lessons are delivered for 40 minutes, two times per week.

Sunset Elementary

Measure G funds provide students in grades 1-5 with hands-on learning in the field of science. The Elementary Science Specialists can engage our students with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), challenging their minds to understand the world around them.

Keep Classroom Technology and Instructional Materials Up-To-Date

Analyzed by Committee Member David Struebing

Livermore Joint Unified District (LVJUSD) received \$262,850, or approximately 7% of the available funds in FY2019-2020 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 purchase Chromebooks and Chromebook carts for the classrooms, and currently the ratio is 2:1 school wide.

Arroyo Seco

Funds were used to purchase Chromebooks, document cameras, printers, teacher laptops, and various small items such as external hard drives, wireless keyboards, etc. In addition, funds were used to repair Chromebooks and pay for site licenses for ST math.

Croce Elementary

Measure G funds allow for replacement, repair, and increase technology for student use. The new curriculum in Math and English Language Arts (ELA) has extensive online components for testing and individualized learning. Increased access to technology enhances student learning by allowing prompt feedback to teachers and students, as well as progress monitoring data and practice for State CAASPP testing (Grades 3-5). It also enhances the students' computer competency.

Emma C. Smith Elementary

Students connect daily in classrooms with Chromebooks and audio and video learning activities. The Measure G funds used will continue to support updating teacher tools and student Chromebook access.

Jackson Avenue Elementary

Measure G funds were used to purchase Chromebook charging carts as an additional first grade classroom was added. Chromebooks were purchased for the Kindergarten classes. In addition, funds were used for tech supplies (battery replacements, Chromebook replacements, repair and updating).

Joe Michell (K-8)

Measure G funds were used to purchase Chromebooks for students in the elementary grades to replace old, worn out versions that no longer meet the needs of our instructional programs. Student learning was monitored through formative and summative assessments that are included within the International Baccalaureate (IB) Units of Study and Statewide assessments.

Junction Avenue (K-8)

The funds were used to purchase additional Chromebooks and Chromebook carts for the classrooms. A majority of our teachers are using Google Docs and other technology as part of their lesson planning.

Lawrence Elementary

Measure G funds were used to purchase Chromebooks and Chromebook carts for the classrooms. Currently the school is at 1:1 in grades 3-5 and 2:1 in grades TK-2.

Marylin Avenue Elementary

Measure G funds were used to replace and repair technology used by students including Chromebook screens, headphones, chargers, and other repairs. In addition, funds were used to purchase site licenses for students to use in class and at home to assist in their learning.

Rancho Elementary

Measure G funds were used to replace and repair technology used by students including Chromebook screens, headphones, chargers, and other repairs.

Sunset Elementary

Measure G funds were used to update the Chromebooks to maintain a 2:1 student to device ratio. In addition, failing Mac laptops were replaced with new PC laptops; these are integral tools for teachers as instruction relies heavily on access to technology and the Internet.

Christensen Middle School

Measure G funds were used to replace and repair student Chromebooks. In addition, funds were used to purchase a site license for NewsELA online reading program for all students.

East Avenue Middle School

Measure G funds were used to purchase HP ProBook 650 to replace aging teacher computers. Funds were also used to replace and repair student Chromebooks, to provide additional Achieve 3000 training for teachers, and send our STEM teacher to the Project WET workshop.

Mendenhall Middle School

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

Del Valle High School

Measure G funds were used to purchase laptops for instruction and replacement Chromebooks for students.

Granada High School

Measure G funds have been used for the renewal of "turn it in.com," replacement of 96 Chromebooks, and two new Chromebook carts.

Livermore High School

Measure G funds were used to purchase miscellaneous plugs, cables, and cords for classrooms, five external drives, 20 internal drives for classroom computers, nine computers, four document cameras, a printer, a Chromebook cart, consumer math curriculum, and renewal of “turn it in.com.”

Vineyard Alternative

Measure G funds were used to purchase 60 Google licenses for donated Chromebooks, ten internal drives to update teacher computers, as well as miscellaneous cords and cables for classrooms/teachers. The school is now closer to reaching the goal of obtaining a 1:1 ratio of Chromebooks to students. This will allow students the flexibility of checking out Chromebooks so they can be used seamlessly at home and at school and foster the amalgamation of technology and curriculum (school work/assignments). The updating of teacher computers has permitted teachers to infuse technology into their curriculum with greater ease.

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

Analyzed by Committee Member Nicole Sardella

The Parcel Tax funds allow each High School to receive \$15,000 to furnish science laboratory materials and for Project Lead the Way (PLTW) schools to be able to provide instructional materials for students in the courses. Additionally, some parcel tax funds are used to support the purchase of textbooks for the recent English Language Arts/English Language Development adoption.

VI. Conclusions

Overall, the Committee concludes that the \$3,999,516 of Measure G revenue for the LVJUSD in FY2019-2020 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 our Livermore schools up-to-date and well maintained.

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 (Fiscal Director), and Kevin Grier (Director of Curriculum and Special Projects).

VI. Respectfully Submitted

David Struebing, Committee Chair

Anette Saxe, Secretary

Bryan Balazs, Committee Member

Robert DeLiso, Committee Member

Nicole Sardella, Committee Member