# Measure G Annual Report for 2018

June 5, 2018

Prepared by

## 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 FY2017-2018 academic year.

Measure G revenue for FY2017-2018 totaled \$3,953,424 which consisted of \$3,937,554 from 28,533 valid real estate parcels in Alameda County and \$15,870 from 115 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 FTEs at a cost of \$1,062,090 or approximately 26.9% of the available funds in FY2017-2018 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 were used to augment maintenance efforts throughout the LVJUSD.
- Retention of the LVJUSD's teachers is a high priority, and the LVJUSD also makes several external efforts to attract quality teachers throughout the school year such as an annual Job Fair in March, with more than 200 potential teachers attending this year. The LVJUSD is a four-time Bay Area News Group Top Workplace designee (2012, 2013, 2016, and 2017) and has been able to attract a large pool of candidates. In the FY2016-2017 school year, the LVJUSD experienced an unusual growth in enrollment but was able to accommodate nearly all students who wanted to attend their neighborhood schools. In addition, the LVJUSD has a high rate of teacher retention with a teacher retention rate (not including teacher retirements) overall of 94%, and 100% for science teachers.
- \$1,676,198 to the LVJUSD for elementary science specialists and \$503,145 for elementary technology specialists, or approximately 55% of the available funds corresponding to 15.6 FTE for elementary science specialists and 4.0 FTE for elementary technology specialists for the nine elementary schools and two K-8 schools in the LVJUSD. At their assigned school sites, the elementary technology specialists are known as the UNITE team, which stands for Utilizing New and Innovative Technology in Education. The technology specialists spend their time at elementary school sites educating teachers as well as students.
- \$18 per student for a total of \$261,842, or approximately 6% of the available funds in FY2017-2018, 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.
- \$15,000 for each high school's science laboratory and \$9,500 for Project Lead the Way (PLTW) schools instructional materials for students in the courses; (PLTW is a national non-profit and leading provider of STEM programs to schools). Additionally, some parcel

tax funds were used to support the purchase of textbooks for the recent English Language Arts/English Language Development adoption.

• 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, FY2017-2018 revenue and expenditures by Measure G, LVJUSD FY2016-2017 Staffing Reports, and the LVJUSD 2017 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 more than 13,900 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 third fiscal year (FY2017-2018) 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 26, 2018 with the following members:

G. Bryan Balazs, Chair*	Natalie Burbach, Secretary*
Chung Bothwell	Terilyn Finders
Sheryl Goodman	Lena Gubiotti
Victoria Lamica	Todd Storti
Nathan Failing (Alternate)	Marti Sutton (Alternate)
Nicole Sardella (Alternate)	

\*At this February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Committee elected Bryan Balazs as Chair and Natalie Burbach as Secretary.

The Committee's first meeting was held on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018, with subsequent meetings held on March 26<sup>th</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup>. For 2018, three of the members were serving the second year of their two-year term, one member was reappointed to a new term, and four members joined the committee in the first year of their term. In addition, three alternates were selected for the committee in 2018 as indicated in the table above, although their services were not required. However, Alternate Member Nathan Failing did attend all of the Committee meetings and authored a part of Section V of this report.

Meetings were held to provide all members and alternates 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 April 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 and one alternate member. In late May, 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 early June.

## IV. FY2017-2018 Measure G Revenue, Parcels, Exemptions and Fees

Financial consultants Francisco & Associates provided information on the Measure G revenue for FY2017-2018, totaling \$3,953,424 which consisted of \$3,937,554 from 28,533 valid real estate parcels in Alameda County and \$15,870 from 115 valid parcels in Contra Costa County. Not included in the total funds are \$257,508 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 1,866 parcels consisting of 1,781 previous and 74 new applications in Alameda County, and 11 previous and 0 new applications in Contra Costa County.

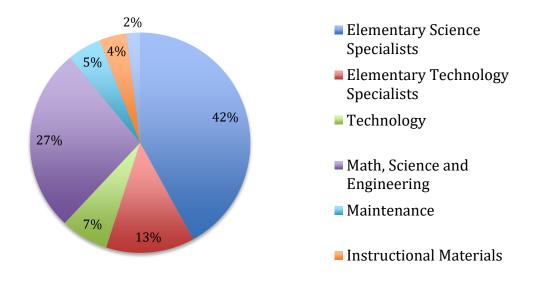
Thus, the LVJUSD was allocated \$3,953,424 of Measure G proceeds in FY2017-2018, with no Measure G carryover funding from the prior fiscal year of FY2016-2017. From this total, the LVJUSD pays an annual assessment fee to Alameda and Contra Costa counties that is used to offset the costs of collecting and tracking the Measure G funds through the property tax system, and in FY2017-2018, this assessment fee was \$80,000. This fee represents approximately 2% of the overall Measure G revenue.

## V. LVJUSD Programs Funded by Measure G

Based on the total of \$3,953,424 in Measure G revenue as detailed in the previous Section IV of this report, the breakdown of the FY2017-2018 expenditures is listed in the following table.

#### Expenditures

Elementary Science Specialists	\$1,676,198	42%
Elementary Technology Specialists	\$503,145	13%
Technology	\$261,842	7%
Math, Science and Engineering	\$1,062,090	27%
Maintenance	\$200,000	5%
Instructional Materials	\$170,149	4%
Fees paid to County	\$80,000	2%
Total	\$3,953,424	100%



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 FY2017-2018 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<sup>th</sup>, 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 Chung Bothwell

For this reporting period (FY2017-2018), the LVJUSD used Measure G funds to provide for 10.00 FTEs at a cost of \$1,062,090, or approximately 26.9% of the available funds in FY2017-2018 to support this important area. Two K-8 schools (Junction and Michell) and 3 middle schools

received a total of \$375456 for 3.75 FTEs dedicated to strengthen the solid foundation in STEM for students at these schools. For three Livermore high schools, an amount of \$686,634 was allocated to this area. This represents 6.25 FTEs supporting the advanced courses for Del Valle, Granada and Livermore High Schools.

As reported, parcel tax funds are used throughout our 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 strong foundation in STEM and are prepared for advanced courses in high school. Secondary sites use funds to purchase technology that 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 (International Baccalaureate Mathematics Standard Level or Higher Level), 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 Victoria Lamica

Measure G provided \$200,000 or approximately 5% of the available funds in FY2017-2018 to augment maintenance efforts throughout the LVJUSD. The main focus of this year's apportionment was dedicated to fire, life and safety at all sites, such as testing and replacement if needed of fire suppression system and extinguishers, replacement of non-functioning security cameras and security gate entry keypads, procurement of maintenance trailer and LVJUSD-issued uniforms, and safety training of scissor lift and forklift equipment.

#### Attract and Retain Highly Qualified Teachers

#### Analyzed by Committee Member Lena Gubiotti

**Staffing:** Approximately 55% of Measure G funds are used to hire science teachers at the elementary schools and technology specialists throughout LVJUSD. The expertise provided by these staff members allows elementary students to be exposed to scientific principles and hands-on learning in science. In addition, the support provided to classroom teachers by the elementary science teachers and technology specialists, allows them to enhance learning for all students.

**Recruitment:** Each year the LVJUSD determines staffing needs for the following year based upon the number of teachers who will be leaving – retirements, leaves, resignations, etc. – and any projected growth. After opening positions for one week for potential internal transfers, the LVJUSD begins filling positions with the most highly qualified applicants from the pool. This process starts with the consideration of those who have worked for the LVJUSD in temporary positions the prior year and have done an outstanding job. Retention of the best temporary teachers is a high priority, as they have already shown their site principals that they are capable of outstanding work.

The LVJUSD also makes several external efforts to attract quality teachers throughout the school year. In March of each year, the LVJUSD holds a Job Fair. The past year, more than 200 potential teachers attended the Fair. The Fair is advertised though social media, the LVJUSD website, and

through the Bay Area News Group Top Workplace (Sunday Business Section). In the FY2017-18 school year, job openings and recruitment details appeared three times in Top Workplace. In addition, the website (livermoreschools.com) contains job openings for teachers throughout the LVJUSD.

The LVJUSD is a four-time Bay Area News Group Top Workplace designee (2012, 2013, 2016, and 2017) and has been able to attract a large pool of candidates, even for positions that are traditionally difficult to fill. Despite a statewide teacher shortage, the LVJUSD has been able to fill additional positions that open during the school year with outstanding educators. In the FY2016-17 school year, the LVJUSD experienced an unusual growth in enrollment. This necessitated the addition of staff during the course of the school year. Despite this late influx of students, the LVJUSD was able to accommodate nearly all students who wanted to attend their neighborhood schools.

**Retention:** The LVJUSD has a high rate of teacher retention. Over the past four years, the overall teacher retention rate (not including teacher retirements) has been 94%, and for science teachers, the teacher retention rate (not including teacher retirements) has been 100%.

#### Provide Elementary School Science and Technology Specialists

#### Analyzed by Committee Member Sheryl Goodman

For FY2017-2018, Measure G provided \$1,676,198 to the LVJUSD for elementary science specialists and \$503,145 for elementary technology specialists, or approximately 55% of the available funds in FY2017-2018. This translates into 15.6 FTE for elementary science specialists and 4.0 FTE for elementary technology specialists for the nine elementary schools and two K-8 schools in the LVJUSD.

At their assigned school sites, the elementary technology specialists are known as the UNITE team, which stands for Utilizing New and Innovative Technology in Education. The technology specialists spend their time at elementary school sites educating teachers as well as students. These dedicated specialists use their classroom visits to provide students with a solid foundation in using technology as a tool in their education, and do so by showing teachers how to use the technology themselves. Their role in the LVJUSD is to establish connections among students, teachers, and technology, to be the link for teachers between problems and solutions.

The LVJUSD's teachers are already experts in content. The members of the UNITE team are experts in technology, keeping up with innovations and finding the right place for technology in the classroom, bringing a philosophy of collaborative learning. In bringing together these experts in different facets of education, students see a model of critical thinking, collaboration, and collective problem-solving – an organic process of learning evolving right before their eyes. Students are gaining exposure to computers and the Internet as tools they can learn to wield responsibly and with purpose.

Putting the pieces together and showing others how they can as well is the specialty of the UNITE team. They understand that incorporating technology into a classroom or a lesson plan involves a learning curve. They work to bring together what is being learned, how it is taught, and the right

tools to enhance that process for both the students and the teachers, resulting in independent learners. The UNITE team is working closely with teachers to ensure that they will produce a tech-literate generation that understands its potential and responsibility – an educated digital citizenry that actively works together to discover innovative solutions to global problems.

When the elementary technology specialists are not directly working with teachers, they are conducting research to maintain up-to-date knowledge of effective instructional and coaching models and stay connected to LVJUSD resources/departments. It is important to note that elementary technology specialists work with teachers based on teacher request. Hence, the level of activities and support provided are driven by teachers rather than the elementary technology specialists themselves. Across the board, teachers report that there just isn't enough time with the specialists.

The elementary science specialists conduct science labs twice weekly to explore science through hands-on activities. These specialists have implemented teaching units aligned with the Next Generation of Science Standards (NGSS) and coordinated with classroom teachers to extend the learning using Project Lead the Way\* units. The elementary science specialists have also helped with engineering projects and *Makerspace* activities. Staff reports that having a hands-on elementary science specialist is invaluable to the students, offering weekly opportunities for interactive hands-on learning as opposed to classroom instruction. The time students spend in the lab also allows elementary teachers to have a prep period.

\*Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is a national non-profit organization and the nation's leading provider of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math programs for use by elementary, middle, and high schools; LVJUSD first adopted PLTW curriculum during the 2009-2010 school year.

To ensure equity and consistency, the teams of specialists meet weekly to share experiences, best practices, and innovative tools to articulate and continue modeling educational shifts in the classroom, as well as to diagnose areas of concern.

In partnership with the teachers, both the elementary science and technology specialists have developed and implemented a multitude of programs district-wide for the FY2017-2018 school year, including:

- Implemented teaching units aligned with the Next Generation of Science Standards (NGSS), using Project Lead the Way,
- Supported teachers and students in learning about *Google Suite* (docs, sheets, slides, forms) for various uses such as projects, reports, data collection, presentations, online testing, and classroom management with one-on-one teacher training and lesson demonstrations,
- Demonstrated lessons to teachers on computer programming/coding,
- Trained teachers and students on use of online digital portfolios of their work,
- Offered teachers creative and meaningful ways to transition traditional pen and paper projects into multimedia digital presentations,

In addition to the accomplishments across the LVJUSD, site-specific activities and initiatives include:

#### Altamont Creek

• Technology specialists worked with teachers/students weekly to teach coding, robotics and video production

#### Arroyo Seco

- Technology specialist:
  - Using the new *Makerspace*, helped to build the space
  - Trained teachers on how to teach students to code, use a 3D printer, and use robotics

#### Croce

- Technology specialists, along with a teacher, took the lead in bringing *Makerspace* to the school
- Science specialists:
  - Took the lead on Science Odyssey event
  - Organized a Family Science Night

#### Jackson Avenue

- Technology specialists:
  - Supported teachers in exploring and implementing more lessons and activities that use a variety of technologies from TK to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, including SDC classes
  - Supported development and implementation of *Makerspace*

#### Joe Michell

- Science specialists:
  - Took the lead on Science Odyssey event
  - Organized a Family Science Night
  - Led grade level discussion on implementing NGSS in IB Units of Inquiry

#### Marylin Avenue

• Science specialist implemented a STEAM lab for after school activities

#### Keep Classroom Technology and Instructional Materials Up-To-Date

Analyzed by Committee Alternate Member Nathan Failing

From the Measure G tax proceeds received by Livermore Joint Unified School District, \$18 per student for a total of \$261,842, or approximately 7% of the available funds in FY2017-18, 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.

The sites reported the following:

#### **Elementary Schools**

- Altamont Creek: Purchased Chromebooks.
- Arroyo Seco: Purchased Chromebooks, site license subscriptions, printers, document cameras, and iPads.
- **Croce Elementary**: Provided replacement/repair of classroom Technology (printers, projectors and document cameras), purchased Chromebooks and iPads, and specifically, Chromebooks for Science classrooms.
- **Emma C. Smith**: funds went towards time for an instructional aid-computer lab to support students.
- Jackson Avenue: A Chromebook cart was purchased, replacement classroom projectors and document cameras, classroom speakers for computer and headphones were purchased.
- Joe Michell (K-8): Purchased Chromebooks. Replaced document cameras and projectors. As well as purchased projector bulbs for the classrooms.
- Junction Avenue (K-8): Purchased Computers, Chromebooks, printers, document cameras and projectors.
- Lawrence: Purchased Chromebooks to support students in K-5.
- **Marylin Avenue**: Purchased site licenses subscriptions, student printers and supplies, STEAM lab materials. Also had Chromebooks repaired.
- Rancho: Purchased Projectors, document cameras, and printer cartridges.
- Sunset: Purchased iPads for Kindergarten, Chromebooks and printer cartridges.

#### Middle Schools:

- Christensen: Purchased Chromebooks, computer carts and projectors
- **East Avenue**: Purchased printer, Chromebook cart, document cameras. Repaired LCD projector and Chromebooks.
- **Mendenhall**: Purchased 11 MacBooks as replacements for Staff, 2 computers for new Journalism class and licenses for them. Had Chromebooks repaired.

#### High Schools:

- Del Valle: Purchased 1 MacBook Pro, hard drive, super drive, black/white printer.
- **Granada**: Purchased Turnitin.com, 3Datamation Secure Carts (for the 90 Chromebooks purchased by IT Dept.), 6 Chromebooks for SDC classes, 1 teacher/student printer for portables, 53 Chromebooks, 16 HP Probooks 430 for Robotics class, and replaced 12 overhead projectors.
- Livermore High: Purchased computers for classroom, 5 document cameras, 4 printers for the classroom, 3 projectors and the licensing for Turnitin.com. The computers indicated, as well as the document cameras, printers and projectors were used in the classrooms across the curriculum. The Turnitin.com subscription serves all disciplines, and in addition to helping uphold academic integrity policies, provides annotations and suggestions instantly for students in a variety of genres. It provides a valuable tool to allow teachers to provide coaching and input on students' rough drafts in writing and to assess the quality of work. The addition of technology and teacher support in our classrooms provides our staff with teaching flexibility and access that is invaluable to our LHS learning community.

• **Vineyard Alternative**: Purchased Google management licensing for 60 donated Chromebooks. Updated desktop computers to the 2016 Microsoft Suite to be able to teach a Career Technical Education (CTE) course to students.

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

Analyzed by Committee Member Todd Storti

The following response was received from the LVJUSD to questions posed, "The parcel tax funds allow each High School to receive \$15,000 to furnish science laboratory materials and for our Project Lead the Way (PLTW) schools to be able to provide instructional materials for students in the courses. Additionally, some parcel tax funds were used to support the purchase of textbooks for the recent English Language Arts/English Language Development adoption."

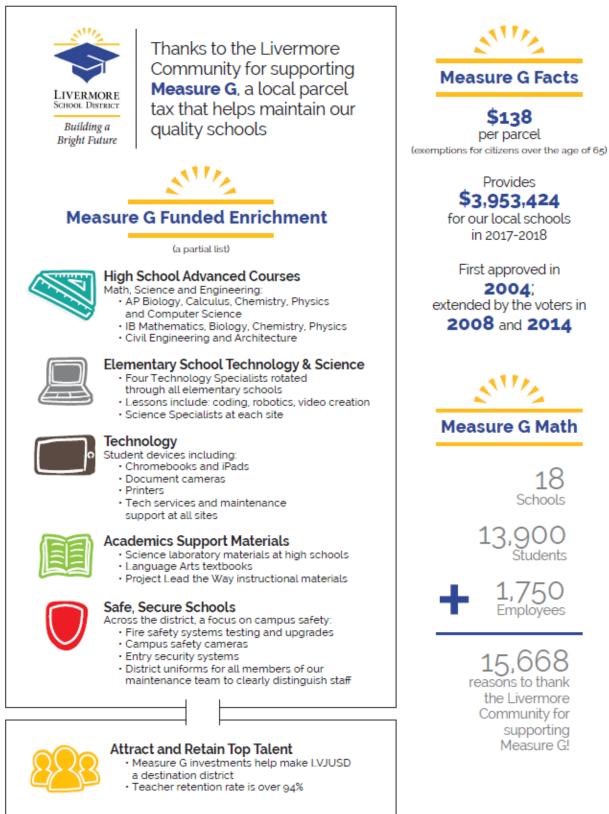
The above response from the LVJUSD provides some detail on how funds were used for the represented fiscal year. Additional detail, from the prior years audited financial statements, demonstrate the LVJUSD has accounted for the parcel tax revenue and is trending to expense in the same manner as the prior year audited financial statements.

### **VI. Conclusions**

Overall, the Committee concludes that the \$3,953,424 of Measure G revenue for the LVJUSD in FY2017-2018 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.

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).

## VII. Appendix (Infographic)



#### Respectfully Submitted,

G. Bryan Balazs, Committee Chair

Natalie Burbach, Secretary

Chung Bothwell, Committee Member

Terilyn Finders, Committee Member

Sheryl Goodman, Committee Member

Lena Gubiotti, Committee Member

Victoria Lamica, Committee Member

Todd Storti, Committee Member

Nate Failing, Committee Alternate Member