



Salida Union School District

District Superintendent
Dr. Dante Alvarez

Board of Trustees
Maria Elena Magana
Virginia Lee Berry
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AUG 06 2026

BY: _____

August 4, 2026

Honorable Sonny Sandu, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Stanislaus
P.O. Box 3488
Modesto, California 95353

Re: Response of the Salida Union School District Governing Board to the 2025-2026 Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury Report, Obligations, Obstacles, and Opportunities in School Bond Oversight, Case No. 26-27GJ

Dear Judge Sandu:

On behalf of the Governing Board of the Salida Union School District (the "District"), this letter provides the District's formal response to the 2025-2026 Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury Report titled Obligations, Obstacles, and Opportunities in School Bond Oversight, Case No. 26-27GJ.

The Grand Jury Report identifies Salida Union School District as a district required to respond to all findings and all recommendations. The Report also references the District's bond measures as follows:

Measure	Election Date	Amount
Measure Q	November 5, 2024	\$16,000,000
Measure U	November 3, 2020	\$9,240,000
Measure A	November 6, 2018	\$2,500,000

However, it should be noted that all of the proceeds of the bonds issued under Measure A have been expended, and as such, the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee ("CBOC") charged with responsibility for Measure A expenditures has been excused. The responses below only pertain to Measure U and Measure Q.

The District appreciates the Grand Jury's review and shares the stated objective of ensuring transparency, accountability, and public confidence in the expenditure of school bond revenues. The Report notes that Salida Union School District's bond information is searchable on the District website under Measure Q and Measure U, and also notes that the District is actively recruiting members for its CBOC.

Response to Findings

Finding 1: Many school districts in Stanislaus County lack required transparency regarding school bonds because they fail to fully comply with Education Code mandates.

Response: The District partially agrees with this finding as applied to Salida Union School District. As reflected in the Grand Jury Report, the District was identified as compliant with respect to posting minutes, but non-compliant with respect to annual CBOC reports and financial and performance audits for Measures U and Q. The District agrees that bond oversight materials should be publicly accessible in a manner that promotes confidence, transparency, and ease of review.

At the same time, the District notes that Measure Q was approved on November 5, 2024, and the timing of required reporting or audit materials should be evaluated in light of when those materials became due or available. Without waiving any position regarding timing or legal interpretation, the District acknowledges the importance of maintaining complete and accessible public records relating to bond oversight.

Accordingly, the District will review its website, bond pages, and internal document posting practices to confirm that all materials required by law are posted as appropriate, including CBOC meeting minutes, annual CBOC reports, annual financial and performance audits, and any other bond oversight materials that should reasonably be made available to the public.

Finding 2: Stanislaus County CBOCs frequently do not have appropriate membership as required by Education Code. Some CBOCs lack members representing each qualifying group, and/or members are regularly serving terms longer than specified in the bylaws.

Response: The District partially agrees with this finding as applied to Salida Union School District.

The Grand Jury Report states that the District's CBOC had 6 of 7 required members, and that the local business owner group was not represented at the time of the review. The Report also states that the District was actively recruiting members.

The District agrees that compliance with statutory and bylaw-based CBOC membership requirements is important to the integrity of bond oversight. The Governing Board recognizes its responsibility to appoint committee members and to maintain the required membership structure under applicable law.

The District will continue recruitment efforts and will review CBOC membership records to ensure that the committee includes all required representative categories and that term information is properly documented and administered.

Response to Recommendations

Recommendation 1: The governing board of the district should instruct its Superintendent to comply with Education Code requirements pertaining to CBOCs by December 31, 2026, including posting minutes, annual performance and financial audits, and annual CBOC reports on the District's website.

Response: This recommendation has not yet been fully implemented, but will be implemented.

The Governing Board will direct the Superintendent or designee to conduct a review of the District's bond oversight webpages and related recordkeeping practices to confirm that required materials are available online in a clear and organized manner. This review will include, at a minimum, CBOC meeting minutes, annual CBOC reports, annual financial and performance audits and related bond oversight documents associated with Measure Q and Measure U, as appropriate. The District will also review whether bond information should be better consolidated, cross-linked, or otherwise reorganized to improve public access and clarity. The District intends to complete this review and implement any necessary corrective actions no later than December 31, 2026.

Recommendation 2a: The governing board of any district lacking full membership should appoint additional members to its CBOC to comply with Education Code section 15282 and the District's CBOC bylaws by December 31, 2026.

District Response: This recommendation has not yet been fully implemented but will be implemented.

The District will continue active recruitment for qualified CBOC applicants, including recruitment directed toward a local business owner which the Grand Jury Report identifies as currently unfilled. Planned recruitment efforts will include posting recruitment notices on the District website, sharing notices through District communications channels, contacting community and parent groups, seeking referrals from local business and civic organizations and presenting recruitment opportunities at public Board meetings.

Subject to the availability of eligible applicants and Governing Board approval, the District intends to appoint an additional qualified CBOC member no later than December 31, 2026.

Recommendation 2b: The governing board of the district should review CBOC membership to determine whether long-serving members have exceeded applicable term limits under Education Code section 15282 and the District's CBOC bylaws. Remediation may include reappointment or replacement. This should be completed by December 31, 2026.

Response: This recommendation will be implemented.

The District will review the appointment history, current status, and term information for all current CBOC members.

The Grand Jury Report states that the term length was unable to be determined based on the materials reviewed. The District will address that issue by confirming the governing bylaw provisions and ensuring that term-related information is appropriately maintained and available for administrative use.

If the review identifies any member whose service requires reappointment, replacement, or other corrective action, the District will take action consistent with applicable law and District bylaws. The District intends to complete this review and any necessary follow-up no later than December 31, 2026.

Additional Response Regarding Measure Q Website Language

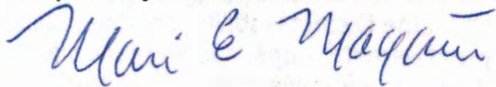
Although not stated as a separate numbered finding or recommendation, the Grand Jury Report expresses concern regarding language on the Measure Q webpage, specifically a statement in the "Improving Our Local Schools" graphic indicating "No projected increase in current tax rates." The Report notes concern that this wording could be viewed as potentially misleading in light of ballot language calling for a levy of \$19 per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

The District takes this concern seriously. Without conceding that any particular statement was inaccurate in context, the District will review the Measure Q webpage and any related public-facing bond materials to ensure that tax-rate language is accurate, clear, and consistent with ballot materials, legal requirements, and appropriate public communication standards. If, after review, the District determines that clarification, revision, or additional explanatory language is appropriate, the District will update the webpage accordingly.

Salida Union School District appreciates the work of the Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury and the opportunity to respond to the Report. The District remains committed to responsible stewardship of bond proceeds and transparent public reporting.

The Governing Board will continue working with District administration to address the matters identified in the Report and to strengthen public access to bond oversight information.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Maria E. Magana".

Maria Elena Magana
President, Board of Trustees of the Salida Union School District