

NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Parcel Tax and Bond Funds Report 2010-2011

School Parcel Tax and Bond Funds at Work!

Spring 2011-2012

The Novato community has been generous in supporting its schools through parcel taxes since 1992 and a bond measure in 2001. The Board of Trustees and I thank you very much for your generosity.

The parcel tax, most recently passed in 2009, provides \$4.3 million per year in stable, local funding and has helped our schools weather fluctuations in the economy and state funding. It represents 6.8% of the budget and is integral in funding music at the elementary schools, visual and performing arts teachers and counselors at the middle and high schools, 88 athletic coaches, library technicians and much more.

This parcel tax has been essential to Novato schools during these unstable economic times. During the last four years, the district has received \$45 million less in state revenues which is roughly the equivalent to one full year of the district's revenue limit funding it receives from the state.

As always, educating Novato's children is NUSD's top priority. The economic downturn and the state's economic shortfalls have forced many school districts in California to shorten the school year, institute furlough days, and increase class sizes significantly. NUSD is proud that it had the foresight early on to prepare for these rough economic times and has been able to maintain a 180 day school year, maintain smaller class sizes, and not enforce furlough days thus keeping children in school.

In addition to the parcel tax, Novato voters approved the sale of three series of General Obligation bonds totaling \$107,000,000. The Bond monies have transformed facilities into effective learning environments by enhancing science rooms, music rooms, computer labs and libraries, safety compliance and athletic facilities, and American with Disabilities improvements.

Recently completed projects include new concession buildings at both high schools; a renovated Career Center at Novato High School; and ADA compliant walkways at Loma Verde, Lynwood, Lu Sutton, Olive, Pleasant Valley and Rancho Elementary Schools, San Jose and Sinaloa Middle Schools and Novato High School.

Using NUSD developer fees and a grant received by the City of Novato, NUSD has partnered with the City of Novato to build a gymnasium at Hamilton School that both will use. The gymnasium is currently under construction along with a new administration building at Hamilton School.

During the fall of 2011, interest rates were at historic lows. The district took advantage of those low interest rates and prudently refinanced the Series 2002 bonds for a savings to taxpayers of approximately \$272,000 per year.

Again, thank you for your generosity and support of Novato students.

Shalee Cunningham, Ph.D.
Superintendent



Loma Verde Courtyard

PARCEL TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

As State funding for our schools continues to dwindle, the Novato parcel tax provides the school district with \$4.3 million annually. These funds directly benefit our students by maintaining outstanding instructional programs such as competitive math and science classes, the arts, music, and athletic programs. The parcel tax also helps prevent significant increases in class size and helps minimize teacher and employee layoffs. These funds have made it possible to keep the school libraries open and counselors available for our students.

The economic stresses on our school district are significant and this parcel tax is a much-needed stabilizing source of funds. The tax was originally passed by voters in 1992 and was renewed in 1997, 2005, and 2009. Voters will be again be asked for their support when the current parcel tax expires in 2015.

I am pleased to report that NUSD is allocating funds in alignment with the specified ballot language. The Parcel Tax Oversight Committee, which is made up of community members, meets quarterly to review district financials, oversee the \$4.3 million dollar budget and provide an annual report to the NUSD Board of Trustees.

Thank you for your continued support of the district through this parcel tax. Our children are benefiting directly from your generosity.

Sincerely,

Robin Rodi
Chairperson of the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee

2010/11 Parcel Tax Oversight Committee Members:
*Robin Rodi, Kent Barnes, Christine Harrison, Dale Kline,
Kimberly McClure and Jeff Whitman*



An Accounting of Your Parcel Tax Dollars

- ▶ The 2009 parcel tax is \$251 per parcel
- ▶ The number of paid parcels increased from 17,053 in 2009-2010 to 17,165 in 2010-2011
- ▶ In 2010-2011 your parcel tax dollars funded 59.45 full time employees and 88 coaching positions

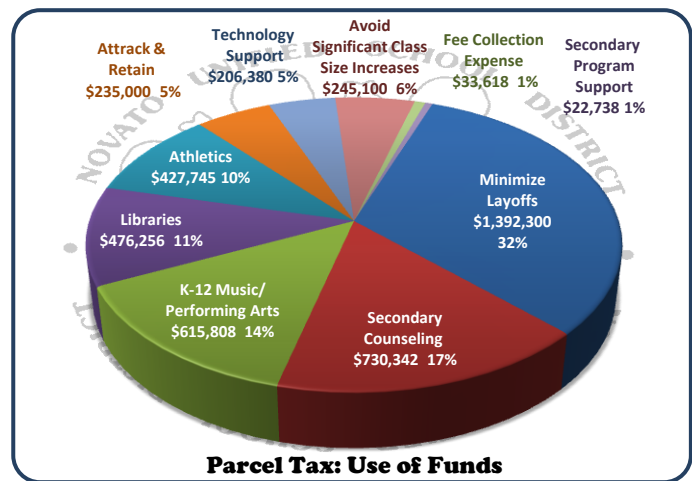
■ 2010-2011 Parcel Tax Revenues = \$4,316,029

■ 2010-2011 Parcel Tax Expenditures = \$4,385,287

With your help, parcel tax revenues have funded a variety of programs that ensure quality instruction as detailed in the parcel tax language:

Minimize layoffs for qualified and experienced teachers and school employees ▪ Avoid significant increases in class sizes in all grades ▪ Maintain outstanding instructional programs that help students succeed, such as competitive science and math programs ▪ Maintain computers and classroom technology ▪ Keep school libraries open and staffed ▪ Protect programs and services that help students qualify for college and prepare students for good jobs ▪ Protect music, art, and athletic programs that provide a well-rounded education for district kids ▪ Keep school counselors

Minimize Layoffs	\$1,392,300	32%
Secondary Counseling	\$730,342	17%
K-12 Music/Performing Arts	\$615,808	14%
Libraries	\$476,256	11%
Athletics	\$427,745	10%
Attract & Retain Staff	\$235,000	5%
Technology Support	\$206,380	5%
Avoid Significant Class Size Increases	\$245,100	6%
Fee Collection Expense	\$33,618	1%
Secondary Program Support	\$22,738	1%
	\$4,385,287	100%



Citizen's Parcel Tax Oversight Committee

A Citizen's Parcel Tax Oversight Committee was formed to ensure that tax proceeds are spent for their authorized purposes, and to report annually to the Board of Trustees and the public regarding expenditure of such funds.

The committee consists of local community members representing the following groups:

Senior Citizens	1 member	North Marin Council of PTA	1 member
Business Community	1 member	Parents	4 members
Local Real Estate Organizations	1 member	Community at-Large	3 members

The committee has been meeting and will present their report to the Board of Trustees and the public. *We currently have vacancies on this vital committee*; if you're interested in participating, or simply have questions about the Novato school parcel tax, please call 415-493-4260.

Site-by-site summary of the projects completed with bond funds

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY**2001-2011**

- Athletic Field Improvements
- Classrooms modernized
- Improved access for fire protection
- Library modernized
- Paved kindergarten area
- Repaired and painted exteriors
- Replaced benches
- Replaced playground equipment
- Replaced roofing
- Restrooms renovated
- Site accessibility addressed (ADA)
- Upgraded electrical system
- Upgraded exterior lighting
- Upgraded fire alarm and signal system
- Upgraded heating system

LOMA VERDE ELEMENTARY**2002-2011**

- Classrooms modernized
- Hygienic outdoor eating areas
- Library modernized
- Paved courtyard and walkways
- Paved parking area
- Playing field renovated
- Repaired and painted exteriors
- Replaced benches
- Replaced playground equipment
- Replaced roofing/skylights
- Restrooms renovated
- Safety lighting and fencing
- Site accessibility addressed (ADA)
- Upgraded electrical system
- Upgraded exterior lighting
- Upgraded fire alarm and signal system
- Upgraded heating system

LU SUTTON ELEMENTARY**2003-2011**

- Classrooms modernized
- Improved access for fire protection
- Installed stages in multi-purpose room
- Paved courtyard and walkways
- Paved pathways and parking areas
- Playing field renovated
- Repaired and painted exteriors
- Replaced playground equipment
- Restrooms renovated
- Safety lighting and fencing
- Site accessibility addressed (ADA)
- Structural repairs
- Upgraded exterior lighting
- Upgraded heating system

LYNWOOD ELEMENTARY**2002-2011**

- Classrooms modernized
- Improved access for fire protection
- Improved exterior lighting
- Paved courtyard and walkways
- Paved kindergarten area
- Paved pathways and parking areas
- Playing field renovated
- Replaced playground equipment
- Replaced roofing/skylights
- Restrooms renovated
- Safety lighting and fencing
- Site accessibility addressed (ADA)
- Upgraded electrical system
- Upgraded fire alarm & signal system

OLIVE ELEMENTARY**2002-2011**

- Classrooms modernized
- Improved access for fire protection
- Improved drainage
- Improved exterior lighting

OLIVE ELEMENTARY (continued)

- Paved courtyard and walkways
- Paved pathways and parking areas
- Playing field renovated
- Replaced playground equipment
- Replaced roofing
- Restrooms renovated
- Site accessibility addressed (ADA)
- Upgraded electrical system
- Upgraded fire alarm and signal system
- Upgraded heating system

PLEASANT VALLEY ELEMENTARY**2002-2011**

- Classrooms modernized
- Improved access for fire protection
- Improved exterior lighting
- Paved courtyard and walkways
- Paved pathways and parking areas
- Playing fields renovated
- Repaired and painted exteriors
- Replaced playground equipment
- Replaced roofing
- Restrooms renovated
- Site accessibility addressed (ADA)
- Upgraded electrical system
- Upgraded fire alarm and signal system

RANCHO ELEMENTARY**2002-2011**

- Classrooms modernized
- Improved access for fire protection
- Improved exterior lighting
- Paved pathways and parking areas
- Playing fields renovated
- Repaired and painted exteriors
- Replaced roofing
- Restrooms renovated
- Site accessibility addressed (ADA)
- Structural repairs
- Upgraded fire alarm and signal system
- Upgraded electrical system

SAN RAMON ELEMENTARY**2002-2011**

- Classrooms modernized
- Improved exterior lighting
- Paved pathways and parking areas
- Paved play areas
- Playing fields renovated
- Repaired roofing
- Replaced playground equipment
- Replaced roofing
- Restrooms renovated
- Site accessibility addressed (ADA)
- Upgraded fire alarm and signal system

HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL**2002-2010**

- Classrooms modernized
- Improved access for fire protection
- Improved exterior lighting
- Improved parking lot drainage
- Paved parking areas
- Repaired and painted exteriors
- Replaced roofing
- Restrooms renovated
- Upgraded electrical system
- Upgraded fire alarm and signal system

SAN JOSE MIDDLE SCHOOL**2002-2011**

- Classrooms modernized
- Improved access for fire protection
- Improved exterior lighting
- Paved Interior Courtyard and walkways
- Playing fields renovated

SAN JOSE MIDDLE SCHOOL (continued)

- Repaired and painted exteriors
- Replaced covered patio roofing
- Restrooms renovated
- Safety lighting and fencing
- Site accessibility addressed (ADA)
- Structural repairs
- Upgraded electrical system
- Upgraded fire alarm and signal system
- Upgraded heating system

SINALOA MIDDLE SCHOOL**2002-2011**

- Classrooms modernized
- Improved access for fire protection
- Improved exterior lighting
- Paved courtyard and walkways
- Paved pathways and parking areas
- Playing fields renovated
- Repaired and painted exteriors
- Replaced benches
- Replaced roofing
- Restrooms renovated
- Safety lighting and fencing
- Site accessibility addressed (ADA)
- Upgraded electrical system
- Upgraded fire alarm and signal system

NOVATO HIGH SCHOOL**2002-2011**

- Classrooms, labs modernized
- Converted auto shop to a film studio
- Improved access for fire protection
- Improved exterior lighting
- Installed bleachers
- Installed synthetic turf/all-weather track
- Locker rooms renovated
- New concession building
- Paved courtyard and walkways
- Paved pathways and parking areas
- Playing fields renovated
- Renovated college and career center
- Renovated field house
- Repaired and painted exteriors
- Replaced roofing
- Restrooms renovated
- Safety lighting and fencing
- Site accessibility addressed (ADA)
- Structural repairs
- Upgraded electrical system
- Upgraded fire alarm and signal system
- Upgraded heating system

SAN MARIN HIGH SCHOOL**2002-2011**

- Classrooms, labs modernized
- Improved access for fire protection
- Improved exterior lighting
- Installed bleachers
- Installed synthetic turf/all-weather track
- New concession building
- Paved pathways and parking areas
- Playing fields renovated
- Re-enforced revetment wall
- Restrooms renovated
- Safety lighting and fencing
- Site accessibility addressed (ADA)
- Upgraded electrical system
- Upgraded fire alarm and signal system
- Upgraded heating system

OTHER PROJECTS

State law mandates that bond funds be utilized to provide partial funding of the facility needs of our charter school. To date, the obligation has been met for the Novato Charter School facility.



San Jose Middle School – Front of School



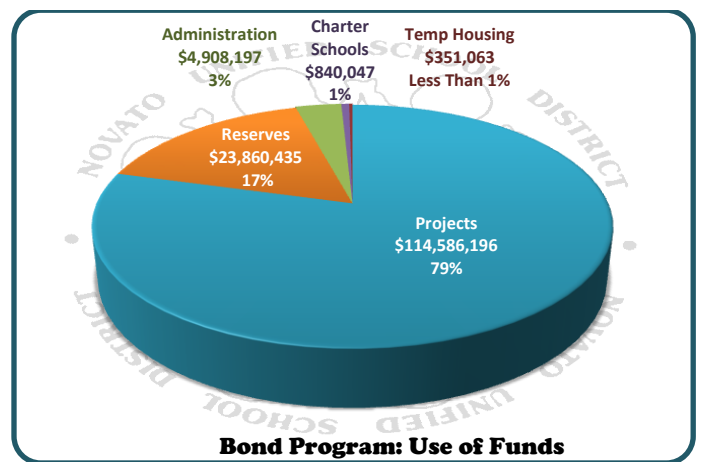
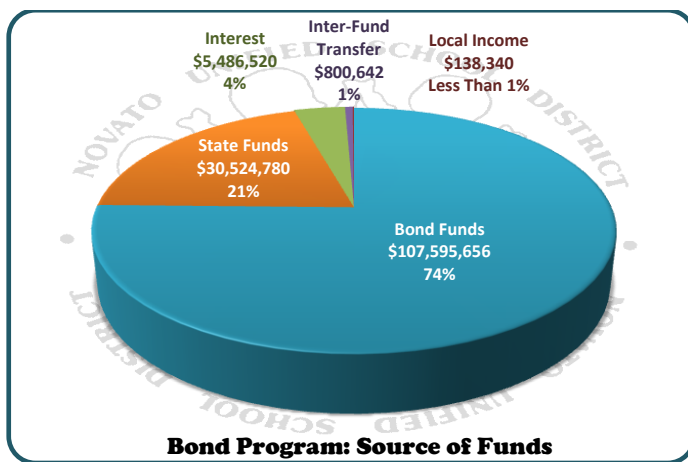
SCHOOL BOND FUND REPORT 2010-2011 – FUNDS FULLY EXPENDED **PAGE 4**

An Accounting of Your School Bond Tax Dollars

The Measure A facility bond approved by Novato voters in 2001 provided \$107 million for the improvement of all school campuses in the Novato Unified School District. State matching funds and interest earnings have provided another \$34 million, resulting in a \$141 million facility program for our schools. As of 2009-2010, bond funds were **fully expended**; current reserves of nearly \$24 million are the accumulation of interest and savings.

Your bond dollars have been utilized to provide for a variety of repairs, renovations and improvements and, most significantly, to address health and safety issues and to modernize classrooms. Classroom modernization typically includes the installation of:

New flooring ▪ Ceilings and lighting ▪ Paint and tack able wall surfaces ▪ Cabinets ▪ Learning wall, a casework system that includes rolling whiteboards ▪ Heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems (existing) ▪ Electrical plugs and fire alarm systems ▪ Computer connection for students and staff



Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee

A Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee was formed to ensure that bond tax proceeds were spent for their authorized purposes, and to report annually to the Board and public regarding expenditures of such funds. Bond funds of \$107,595,656 were **fully expended** in 2009-2010; with the program complete, the Committee met only once in 2010-2011, on January 26, 2011. On March 15, 2011, the Committee was suspended by the Board until such time that the District passes another General Obligation Bond.

The district continues to complete projects with the remaining funds in the Building Fund and a Performance Audit is still completed each year. Bond reports can be found at:

www.nusd.org ⇒ Departments ⇒ Fiscal Services ⇒ Bond

San Marin High School



New Concession Building