MOUNTAIN EMPIRE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Measure L Bond & State Financial Hardship Funding Assessment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Mountain Empire Unified School District (MEUSD) is seeking voter authorization for Measure L ($23M general obligation bond). Passing Measure L fulfills state-mandated local bonding effort requirements, triggering Financial Hardship Assistance through the State Allocation Board (SAB) and Office of Public School Construction (OPSC). This unlocks up to 100% state matching grants to rebuild, modernize, and replace aging facilities based on square footage across ALL district sites—including TK–6th grade elementary campuses, junior high, high school, and specialty facilities.

1. District-Wide SAB Facility Hardship & Modernization Scope

Campus Level	Included Sites	SAB Hardship & Facility Focus Areas
Elementary Schools (TK–6)	• Campo Elementary • Clover Flat Elementary • Descanso Elementary • Potrero Elementary	Critical health/life safety remediation, structural upgrades, replacement of aging portables, hazardous material abatement (lead/asbestos), water infrastructure, and plumbing/sewer repairs. Campus-wide HVAC, roofing, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, and electrical/fire alarm safety upgrades.
High School	• Mountain Empire High School	Facility replacement and seismic/structural mitigation based on approved square-footage health and safety hardship applications submitted to SAB.
Specialty & Community Sites	• Pine Valley Education Center • Camp Lockett Learning Center	Critical health/life safety remediation, structural upgrades, replacement of aging portables, hazardous material abatement (lead/asbestos), water infrastructure, and plumbing/sewer repairs. Campus-wide HVAC, roofing, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, and electrical/fire alarm safety upgrades.

2. Key Financial Metrics & Statutory Bonding Requirements

Measure L Bond Authorization: Proposes $23,000,000 in general obligation bonds for facility repair and construction.

State Indebtedness Threshold (60% Rule): Under SAB regulations, a district seeking Financial Hardship status (up to 100% state funding) must issue local debt equal to at least 60% of its total bonding capacity or pass a bond for the maximum practical limit.

Local Capacity & Rural Context: Small rural districts like MEUSD have constrained local assessed property valuations. Authorizing $23M satisfies the 60% local effort requirement, granting official Financial Hardship eligibility.

Square-Footage Grant Formulas: State matching allocations under OPSC Facility Hardship are calculated using statutory square-footage replacement costs for approved facility applications across TK–6 and secondary sites.

3. How Measure L Leverages State Matching Dollars District-Wide

District-Wide Eligibility: Comprehensive Facility Condition Assessments (FCAs) across TK–12 campuses Campo, Clover Flat, Descanso, Potrero, Pine Valley, and the High School/Junior High allow SAB Financial Hardship funds to address severe risks at all campuses.

Unlocking State Matching Funds: School Facility Program (SFP) grants require local matching dollars. Measure L serves as the required trigger to unlock tens of millions in state matching funds.

Long-Term Solutions vs. Temporary Patches: Rather than draining operational funds on piecemeal repairs, Measure L provides the funding needed to replace substandard structures and meet modern state building codes.

SUMMARY CONCLUSION: A 'YES' vote on Measure L satisfies state bonding threshold requirements, leveraging SAB-approved Facility Hardship applications to secure maximum state matching grants for EVERY school in the district.