



MOTHER LODGE UNION School District

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December 14, 2016

Lori Raineri, President
Government Financial Strategies, Inc.
1228 N Street, Suite 13
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Lori:

It is with sincere appreciation and enthusiasm that I pen this letter of commendation for and recommendation of you and your entire Government Financial Strategies (GFS) Team! GFS has been successfully assisting public entities for 28 years because they truly live up to their motto, *We're here for you!* After the completion of our District's Facility Master Plan, it was evident that we had more needs than resources. It was time to get serious about finding financial solutions for our facility needs. The Mother Lode Trustees selected GFS to serve as the District's financial advisor. Little did we know we would get so much more than financial advice.

When I describe GFS to colleagues, I cannot do so without using the terms educational, ethical, knowledgeable, community and service oriented and transparent. When you work with GFS, you are provided an education on all matters of public finance relative to the scope of the work. As a superintendent recommending courses of action to my Board of Trustees, Lori and the GFS Team provided me and the Mother Lode Team with the education and knowledge necessary to confidently recommend accurate and informed courses of action to the Board. This is invaluable!

Leadership matters and it starts at the top. Lori leads with a community and service orientation. Lori and Team, Jonathan Edwards, Matt Kolker and Rich Malone all in their own unique roles have been involved with the Board, District staff and community members. We conducted a Community Engagement Committee on Facility Needs in December of 2015. I sincerely believe it is one of the best things we've done in Mother Lode since I have been superintendent. This strategic plan, Lori's brainchild, provided our community an opportunity to learn about our facility needs, become educated about school finances and facility funding streams and allowed for this committee to achieve consensus on the next best steps that should be taken to address Mother Lode's facility needs. Thirty-six community and staff members were involved in this process. This was significant!

The Mission of the Mother Lode Union School District is the successful education of every student.

Another example of the community and service orientation Lori and the GFS Team practice is when Lori went out of her way to serve as a resource and financial expert partner when I presented information about our general obligation bond, Measure C, to the El Dorado Taxpayers Association.

To say that GFS is an ethical and fiscally responsible organization would be an understatement. Thanks to good financial planning, GFS created a bond plan that was feasible under bad circumstances with room for upside should interest rates and/or assessed value growth be favorable. Mother Lode's Measure C was extremely successful for the District and for taxpayers. Mother Lode's bonds have a very low debt service to principal ratio of 1.41 to 1, will cost taxpayers \$5 million less in total repayment compared to pre-election projections, and will be repaid five years sooner than planned prior to the election. Further, the District received \$225,000 more for projects than was budgeted.

Mother Lode Union School District *hit the mother lode* when we hired GFS to serve as our District's Financial Advisor!

If you need more information, I would gladly speak with you further about my experience with Government Financial Strategies Incorporated. I may be reached by email at mguthrie@mlusd.net or at 530-622-6464 ext. 2215.

Sincerely,



Marcy Guthrie, Ed.D., Superintendent
Mother Lode Union School District