



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-16-44
Meeting 16-08
April 13, 2016

AGENDA ITEM 12

AGENDA ITEM

Resolution in Support of Measure A, Santa Clara County Park Charter Fund Extension

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution in support of Measure A, Santa Clara County Park Charter Fund Extension on the ballot for the June 7, 2016 statewide direct primary election.

SUMMARY

The Santa Clara County Park Charter Fund (Charter Fund) was first approved by the voters in 1972 and has been renewed six times since, where the current Park Charter provision was last approved by voters in 2006 and sunsets in 2021. Currently, the Charter Fund is allocated 15% for land acquisition, 5% for capital improvements, and 80% for maintenance and operations. If approved by the voters, the allocation formula would change to 10% for land acquisition, 10% for capital improvements, and 80% for maintenance and operations. The Charter Fund currently receives 1.425 cents per one hundred dollars (\$100) of assessed valuation, and Measure A would increase that set aside to 1.5 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, projected effective July 1, 2017. The increase in funding is not an increase in taxes but is a set aside of existing property tax revenue. Measure A states that if approved, the funds will be used to “continue protecting and preserving local parks; improving access to natural areas, open space, trails and recreational opportunities; keeping restrooms and facilities clean and safe; and maintaining, operating, acquiring and improving local parks.”

MEASURE AA

While Measure A is not an identified project under Measure AA, it could help facilitate completion of several Measure AA partnership projects related to regional trail connections, such as the [Wildlife Corridor and Bay Area Ridge Trail crossing of Hwy 17 \(MAA #20\)](#), completion of the Middle Stevens Creek Trail (MAA #12) and Upper Stevens Creek Trail (MAA #17), where the Stevens Creek Trail is a regional trail identified in the Santa Clara County Countywide Trails Master Plan Update, administered by the County Parks Department.

BACKGROUND

On February 9, 2016 the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to place a measure on the June 7, 2016 ballot proposing amendment to the Charter of the County of Santa Clara Section 604 and extension of the Charter Fund. The Charter Fund was established in 1972 as a fixed set-aside of the existing property tax revenue from the General Fund that is deposited in the County Park Fund for land acquisition, development, capital improvements, and maintenance and operations of the County's park system.

On March 21, 2016, the campaign committee for Yes on Parks submitted a letter requesting the District's endorsement of Measure A. While the Board has not yet adopted a policy regarding legislative advocacy, a majority of the Board directed staff to research the matter at the March 23, 2016 Board meeting. Measure A is consistent with the District's mission in that it would enable the County to continue protection of a regional greenbelt of open space and trails, protect natural waterways, and provide opportunities for public enjoyment and recreation. With the Park Charter Fund extension, the Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation (Santa Clara County Parks) will continue to offer residents a diversity of recreational facilities that include multi-use trails, nature centers, picnicking and interpretive programs, as well as golf courses, archery range, softball complex, velodrome, motorcycle park, fishing, waterskiing and sailing, and other recreational facilities and uses that are not provided at District open space preserves. Measure A would also be consistent with Objective 3 of the Board-adopted Basic Policy, which states, "[t]he District works with and encourages private and other public agencies to preserve, maintain and enhance open space."

DISCUSSION

If approved by the voters, Measure A would extend the term of the County's Park Charter Section 604, which sets aside a portion of the property tax collected by the County and deposits that amount in the County park fund for another 15 years, starting July 1, 2017 until June 30, 2032. The proposed amendment to the Park Charter would raise the amount of that set aside from 1.425 cents to 1.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value of all real and personal property tax revenue in the County. Approval of Measure A would not result in an increase in property taxes for Santa Clara County residents because it only increases the amount of the set-aside of property taxes already collected by the County.

Additionally, the amended charter would require the County to use at least 10% of the set aside funds for the acquisition of real property and at least 10% of the funds for park development for County park purposes. The remaining amount would be used for County park operations and maintenance. County Parks has identified more than \$185 million in outstanding capital investments needed in the next decade. County Parks has stated funds from the measure will help:

- Maintain water quality by protecting land around rivers, lakes and streams
- Keep restrooms and park facilities clean and safe
- Protect and preserve local parks
- Update aging roads, parking lots, restrooms and trailheads
- Improve access to hiking and biking trails
- Improve access to natural areas and open space

Measure A would require approval by a simple majority of Santa Clara County voters. The following individuals signed the official argument in favor of Measure A:

- Dave Cortese
- Blanca Alvarado
- Rod Diridon, Sr.
- Carl Guardino
- Yoriko Kishimoto

Additionally, Measure A has been endorsed by the League of Conservation Voters, Committee for Green Foothills, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, and more than 50 other elected and community leaders.

Additional information about Measure A is available on the Santa Clara County Parks website at <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/Whats-Happening/Pages/investing-Parks.aspx> and <http://www.yesonparks.com>.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with adopting a resolution in support of Measure A, the Santa Clara County Park Charter Fund Extension. However, the County of Santa Clara has paid 50% of the District's acquisition costs for joint projects and could choose to do that again in the future.

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

This item was not previously reviewed by a Board Committee.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act. No additional notice is required.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

This item is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

NEXT STEPS

If approved by the Board of Directors, a copy of the resolution in support of Measure A, Santa Clara County Park Charter Fund Extension, will be transmitted to the Yes on Parks campaign committee.

Attachment

1. Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Supporting Measure A, Santa Clara County Parks Charter Fund Extension

Responsible Department Head:
Steve Abbors, General Manager

Prepared by:
Jennifer Woodworth, District Clerk

RESOLUTION 16-__

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT SUPPORTING MEASURE A, SANTA CLARA COUNTY PARKS CHARTER FUND EXTENSION

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors voted to place a charter amendment on the June 7, 2016 ballot; and

WHEREAS, approval of the charter amendment by the voters in Santa Clara County would amend section 604 of the Charter of the County of Santa Clara to add provisions to and extend the term of section 604. The charter amendment is intended to take effect on July 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Park Charter Fund authorized by section 604 would fund continued protection and preservation of local parks; improved access to natural areas, open space, trails, and recreational opportunities; keep restrooms and facilities clean and safe; and maintenance, operation, acquisition, and improvements of local parks; and

WHEREAS, the measure would improve access to natural areas and open space for Midpeninsula Open Space District residents by increasing access to hiking and biking trails, maintaining water quality by protecting land around rivers, lakes and streams, and protecting and preserving local parks; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District does hereby declare its enthusiastic support for Measure A, Santa Clara County Parks Charter Fund Extension on the June 7, 2016 ballot.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District on ____, 2016, at a regular meeting thereof, by the following vote:

* * * * *

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Secretary
Board of Directors

President
Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

General Counsel

I, the District Clerk of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District by the above vote at a meeting thereof duly held and called on the above day.

District Clerk