



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

R-16-128  
Meeting 16-25  
October 12, 2016

## AGENDA ITEM 7

### AGENDA ITEM

Resolution in Support of Measure K by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and consider adoption of a resolution in support of a 20-year, ½-cent sales tax extension, put forth by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors on the ballot for the November 8, 2016 statewide general election.

#### SUMMARY

On August 9, 2016, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved placing a 20-year, ½-cent sales tax extension on the November 8, 2016 ballot in San Mateo County. The proposition, which has been assigned the designation of “Measure K”, extends the ½-cent sales tax passed by voters in November 2012 (Measure A) that was slated to last for ten years. It is estimated to generate approximately \$85 million per year.

To date, Measure A funds have been used for a wide variety of services and programs ranging from affordable housing, public safety, health and human services. Notably, \$5.0 million of Measure A funds were utilized in 2015 to reinstate a separate San Mateo County's Parks Department, which had been consolidated with Public Works Department earlier due to budget constraints. ~~Recently, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors committed over \$250,000 over a two-year period to pilot a shuttle program to local county parks from downtowns and underserved communities.~~ In addition, \$1.0 million has been committed to completing a key section of the San Francisco Bay Trail under a grant agreement with this District for its Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection Project.

At the September 14, 2016 Board meeting, staff made the Board aware of the measure and its potential to forward the District's mission. A majority of the Board directed staff to research the matter.

The Initiative is consistent with the District's mission of open space preservation and habitat restoration in that it would continue to serve as a source of significant, flexible funds for park and open space-related activities as it has demonstrated in its commitments to date.

#### MEASURE AA

It is difficult to determine its applicability to Measure AA projects due to the flexible nature of the funds. \$1.0 million has been committed to completing a key section of the San Francisco Bay Trail, which falls under Measure AA Priority Action #2.

## DISCUSSION

### Background:

Government budgets across the country were severely impacted with the great recession of 2008. Significant reductions in property tax revenues had a major impact on San Mateo County's ability to deliver basic services and sustain important local priority programs. In an effort to bridge this funding gap, the San Mateo Board of Supervisors went to county voters with a 10-year, ½-cent sales tax measure in 2012 (Measure A). As a general sales and use tax it required a 50% plus one approval threshold. It passed with 65.4% approval. It was expected to generate about \$60 million per year, but instead has generated approximately \$80 million per year.

Even though the local economy, and property tax revenues, have rebounded to new highs, the problems the county faces – especially in supporting its lowest income residents – persist. State and federal funding assistance continues to be challenging, so local measures have an appeal.

The ballot language for Measure K mirrors 2012's Measure A language.

To date, under Measure A, it appears to have maintained its commitment to meeting its intended expenditure goals. Tracking of expenditures has been made available on its public Measure A website: <http://cmo.smcgov.org/measureA>

If approved by voters, the Initiative is expected to generate approximately \$85 million a year for 26 years (Measure A remainder plus Measure K). The measure requires approval by a 50% plus one majority of voters in San Mateo County.

### Proposal:

The question to be put before voters is:

*To ensure San Mateo County quality of life by retaining/improving critical facilities/services, such as: providing affordable homes for seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, families; enhancing public transit; combatting human trafficking; addressing sea level rise; maintaining safe schools and neighborhoods; high-quality preschool and reading programs; park maintenance; and low-income healthcare, shall San Mateo County extend the existing half-cent sales tax, without increasing the rate, providing \$85,000,000 annually for 20 years that the State cannot take away?*

For the Board to consider taking a position on this measure, the following criteria contained within Board Policy 1.11 "Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy" must be met:

"The Board may consider taking a position on the measure/proposition if the measure/proposition:

- i. Would directly impact the District's finances, responsibilities, legal authority, or operations; AND
- ii. Is in line with or inconsistent with the District's mission and/or commitment to preserve open space within its boundaries and sphere of influence. "

The primary means by which this measure is consistent with Board Policy is through its demonstrated commitment to fund the San Mateo County Parks Department and its goals. Although future allocations may not be guaranteed, but as stated in the measure's language "parks maintenance" and "addressing sea level rise" are part of their stated objectives. The county has already made monetary commitments to District Priority Actions.

A more indirect, but also significant, benefit to the District is San Mateo County's use of these funds for the enhancement of affordable housing opportunities to area low-income residents. This will help to minimize sprawl and reduce commute-related greenhouse gas generation.

To date, almost 80 San Mateo County elected officials have endorsed this measure, along with over 40 community organizations. Notable endorsements come from the Committee for Green Foothills, Greenbelt Alliance, League of Women Voters of San Mateo County, Peninsula Open Space Trust, and the San Mateo County Parks Foundation.

A list of arguments in support and opposed to the measure, including an impartial analysis, appears on the San Mateo County Elections Office website at:

[https://www.shapethefuture.org/elections/2016/nov/candidates\\_measures/](https://www.shapethefuture.org/elections/2016/nov/candidates_measures/)

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with adoption of a resolution in support of San Mateo County Measure K.

## **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 the San Mateo County Measure K will be transmitted to the Yes on K campaign.

Attachment

1. Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Supporting San Mateo County Measure K.

Responsible Department Head:  
Shelly Lewis, Public Affairs Manager

Prepared by:  
Joshua Hugg, Legislative/External Affairs Specialist

Contact Person:  
Shelly Lewis, Public Affairs Manager

**RESOLUTION 16-\_\_**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT SUPPORTING “MEASURE K” AS PUT TO THE VOTERS BY THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**WHEREAS**, with significant reductions in property tax revenues San Mateo County saw devastating impacts to its ability to deliver basic services and its ability to sustain important local priority programs, and in an effort to bridge this funding gap, the San Mateo Board of Supervisors went to county voters to pass a 10-year, ½-cent sales tax measure in 2012 (Measure A); and,

**WHEREAS**, on August 9, 2016, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved placing a 20-year, ½-cent sales tax extension on the November 8, 2016 ballot in San Mateo County; and,

**WHEREAS**, recently, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors has demonstrated its commitment to parks and open space by allocating ~~over \$250,000~~ \$5.0 million of Measure A funds ~~over a two-year period to pilot a shuttle program to local county parks from downtowns and underserved communities in 2015 to reinstate a separate San Mateo County’s Parks Department~~, as well as \$1.0 million to complete a key section of the San Francisco Bay Trail under a grant agreement with the District for its Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection Project; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Initiative is consistent with the District’s mission of open space preservation and habitat restoration with its future potential to serve parks and open space needs; and,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District hereby endorses Measure K, as put to the voters by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.

**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:**

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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.

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District Clerk