

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
AGENDA BOARD LETTER**

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Room 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:
Prepared Date: February 13, 2004
Department: **Public Works Transportation**
Budget Unit: **054/02**
Agenda Date: **03/09/04**
Placement: **Departmental**
Estimated Time: 45 Min.
Continued Item: NO

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Phillip M. Demery, Director
Public Works

STAFF CONTACT: Scott D. McGolpin, Deputy Director
Transportation – 568-3064

SUBJECT: Measure "D" 1/2 Cent Sales Tax for Transportation for all Supervisorial Districts

RECOMMENDATIONS : C.A. Recommendation: _____

- A. Adopt the attached Resolution for the Measure "D" Five-Year Local Program of Projects for Fiscal Years 2004/05 through 2008/09, for submittal to the Santa Barbara County Local Transportation Authority for acceptance;
- B. Reaffirm Resolution 89-465, which established priorities and policies for the use of the local portion of the one-half cent sales tax for the transportation needs in Santa Barbara County;
- C. Approve Notice of Exemption pursuant to the County's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines for the above; (Post);
- D. Reaffirm Measure "D" distribution formula for allocation of revenues within Supervisorial Districts;
- E. Direct staff to prepare Fiscal Year 2004/2005 Road Maintenance Annual Plan (RdMap) based upon approved Measure "D" distribution formula.

ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 1, An Efficient Government Able to Anticipate and Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION :

As part of the local guidelines of the Measure "D" 1/2 cent sales tax, the Board of Supervisors must annually adopt a resolution indicating the program of projects and certifying the intent to allocate the required local discretionary funds to satisfy the "Maintenance of Efforts" provision of Measure "D".

On November 7, 1989 the voters of the County of Santa Barbara approved Measure "D", the Santa Barbara Transportation Improvement Program, with a 55% majority vote. As a result of the passage of Measure "D", the local sales tax was increased countywide by one-half cent, effective April 1, 1991. The transportation sales tax will remain in effect for 20 years, with the revenues being allocated for transportation improvements.

The revenues generated countywide by this transportation sales tax are currently distributed with 70 percent going to local agencies for local street repair. The remaining 30 percent are allocated to state and regional highway projects. The County of Santa Barbara is required on an annual basis to develop a five-year program for proposed projects to be funded with these sales tax monies. The Department of Public Works approaches your Board every spring for approval of the County's program. Upon approval, the program is sent to the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) for approval and incorporation into the countywide plan.

The County's approved five-year program of projects is the basis by which the Department constructs the Road Maintenance Annual Plan (RdMap). This plan is the Public Works Department's road maintenance strategy for the coming year. In the plan, needed maintenance work, both corrective and preventive, is identified. Measure "D" is currently the County's primary source of revenue for preventive maintenance that includes, overlays, seal coats and hardscape repairs. Preventive maintenance work is the majority of the County's unfunded road maintenance backlog that in total is a \$111 million need at this time. This estimate is based on a pavement re-evaluation conducted in 2003 and consists of all four components of the Transportation Infrastructure System (pavement, concrete, bridges and drainage). This backlog has increased by \$10 million since last year due in part to the non-local revenue that has been decreased or delayed since last fiscal year as well as normal degradation of the system.

State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) revenues are significantly lower than were projected when the 2002 STIP was adopted by the California Transportation Commission (CTC). As such, many projects in California have been delayed and placed on a waiting list for funding. Originally, State Transportation funding in the amount of \$6.3 million was made available for the County's backlog of pavement maintenance needs. However, the CTC has re-programmed this pavement rehabilitation funding to FY 2006-2007. This decision has two negative implications for the Transportation Infrastructure System: a delay in much needed surface treatments is experienced by the County; and by the time this funding becomes available for our use the proposed strategies will more than likely change, requiring additional revenue to complete the plan.

In 2001, the Governor signed AB 2928 which later became voter approved Proposition 42, approximately \$1 billion was distributed directly to cities and counties for preservation of the local road system. The County's portion of this bill was based on an allocation formula of 75% registered vehicles and 25% maintained road miles. Again, due to the State Budget shortfalls these revenues for FY 2003-04 were suspended and FY 2004-05 are proposed to be suspended as well due to a caveat in the proposition. The fiscal impact to the County is approximately \$1.4 million less in revenue to maintain our Transportation Infrastructure System this fiscal year.

After the approval of Measure "D" by the voters of this County in 1989, your Board decided to distribute the revenues to each Supervisorial district based on a formula that was solely based on unincorporated population. In Fiscal Year 1999-2000 the Grand Jury published a report titled, "Our County Roads" in which they stated that the County's rural road system was in a state of disrepair due in part to the original distribution formula. The Grand Jury went on to say; "To correct the imbalance of Measure "D" funding allocated among the County Districts, the Board of Supervisors and PWD should consider allocating funds by road lane-miles..." After this report was published your Board revised the formula to one based on a 75% population and 25% lane mile distribution.

This revision of the original distribution formula provided some additional funding to the Third and Fifth Supervisorial Districts where there are more rural areas thus more lane miles for similar populations. Last year your Board once again revised this distribution formula to one based on 50% population and 50% lane miles within each District. Staff requests that your Board reaffirm the Measure "D" distribution formula for allocation of revenues within Supervisorial Districts approved last year.

Last year your Board also reaffirmed Resolution 89-465, which established priorities and policies for the use of Measure "D" funds. Public Works' staff recommends reaffirmation of the Resolution again for this year. The eligible use of Measure "D" funds is defined by ordinance and jurisdictional Measure "D" expenses which are audited by SBCAG.

Pursuant to the County's CEQA guidelines, the Department of Public Works has determined this project to be exempt for further environmental review. Approval of this Notice of Exemption shall indicate the Board of Supervisors approval and shall commence the appeal period.

MANDATES & SERVICE LEVELS :

No change in programs or service level.

FACILITIES AND FISCAL IMPACT :

The local share of the sales tax will generate an estimated \$6,352,579 this year for use on the County's Transportation Infrastructure System and \$34,074,521 over the subsequent five years.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS :

The Department noticed the hearing for the Measure "D" 1/2 Cent Sales Tax. The notice has been published for one week in the Santa Maria Times and the Santa Barbara Newspress.

Please return one copy of the executed resolution and a certified stamped Minute Order to the Transportation Div.,
attn: Cecelia Barnes.

Concurrence:

County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
Risk Management

Attachments:

Resolution for the Measure "D" Five-Year Local Program of Projects for Fiscal Years 2004/05 through 2008/09
Resolution 89-465
Notice of Exemption
Description of Projects and Capital Improvement Plans