

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



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

**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 4/10/02  
**Department Name:** Public Works  
**Department No.:** 054  
**Agenda Date:** 04/23/02  
**Placement:** Departmental  
**Estimate Time:** 30 min.  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Philip M. Demery, Director  
Public Works

**STAFF CONTACT:** James A. Marrs, Manager – 568-3047  
Engineering Section

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

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**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Adopt the attached Resolution for the Measure "D" Five-Year Local Program of Projects for Fiscal Years 2003 through 2008, 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);

**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 and 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 increase 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. Revenues received by the County are distributed to each Supervisorial district by a formula that was revised by your Board in June of 2000. This revised formula is based on a 75% population and 25% lane mile distribution. This revision was based on a request from a Grand Jury report of the same year, in which they stated that the County's rural road system was in a state of disrepair due in part to the previous distribution formula. Prior to this revision, the revenues were distributed based on population only. The revision of this formula provided additional funding to the districts with higher lane mile needs but smaller population bases within the third and fifth supervisorial districts.

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 year during the month of April 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 \$119 million need at this time. This estimate is based on a pavement re-evaluation conducted in 2001. This increase demonstrates that damage sustained by the pavement infrastructure as a result of the storms of 1998, 2000 and 2001 was much greater than originally estimated. Furthermore, the benefits of additional funding received recently have not been fully realized on the system, as asphalt costs have skyrocketed over the last few years.

In February the area of Goleta officially became an incorporated city. This will have a direct impact on the County's Measure D apportionment. Measure D apportionments are calculated based on population. The Goleta incorporation reduced the County's population by nearly 30,000 resulting in a reduction in apportionment for FY 02/03 of approximately \$1.3 million. In addition, last fiscal year (01/02) represented the final distribution of the \$7.5 million re-allocation approved previously by the SBCAG board. These events have culminated in a Measure D Program of Projects containing significantly less in revenues than presented to the Board in recent years.

In fiscal year 01/02 & 02/03 the Department received \$2,200,000 in AB 2928 revenues. These new revenues are derived from sales tax collected on fuels in which the revenues previously were received by the State General Fund. These moneys were specifically designated for the purpose of road maintenance needs throughout the unincorporated areas of the County. This funding has a "use it or lose it" provision, whereby the County must have these funds expended within an 18 month period. These AB 2928 funds have been used to augment the surface treatment program to meet the intent of the program.

Last year your Board 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 are 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 and Service Levels:**

No change in programs or service level.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

The local share of the sales tax will generate an estimated \$6,071,956 this year for use on the County's Road System and \$32,666,939 over the subsequent five years.

**Special Instructions:**

Please return one copy of the executed resolution to the Transportation Division, Attn: Cecilia Barnes.

**Concurrence:**