

**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, 2003
Department: **Public Works Transportation**
Budget Unit: **054/02**
Agenda Date: **03/11/03**
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 2003/04 through 2007/08, 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. Re-affirm or consider revisions to Measure "D" distribution formula for allocation of revenues within Supervisorial Districts;
- E. Direct staff to prepare Fiscal Year 2003/2004 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 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. 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 \$102 million need at this time. This estimate is based on a pavement re-evaluation conducted in 2002 and consists of all four components of the Transportation Infrastructure System (pavement, concrete, bridges and drainage). This backlog has decreased \$8 million since last year due in part to the non-local revenue, such as AB2928, TEA 21 and STIP, that has been received over the last few years and placed on the Transportation Infrastructure System in a relatively short period of time.

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.

There are many distribution options that could be considered by your Board for Measure "D". Four such examples are illustrated by the attached 'Options for Measure "D" Distribution Methods'. Three of the options represent varied mixes between unincorporated populations and lane miles within each Supervisorial District. The fourth option represents the actual percentage of unfunded pavement needs at this time within each district. The Department currently reinventories the County's Pavement Infrastructure System at a pace of one-third of the system every year. If your Board selected this option, an adjustment could be made to the actual formula every three years to coincide with a complete reinventory.

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 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 \$6,255,721 this year for use on the County's Transportation Infrastructure System and \$33,655,013 over the subsequent five years.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS :

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

Please return one copy of the executed resolution 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 2003/04 through 2007/08
Resolution 89-465
Notice of Exemption
Description of Projects and Capital Improvement Plans
Measure "D" Distribution Formula Options