

April 22, 2024

Dear Chair Bohn and Board of Supervisors,

The Citizens' Advisory Committee on Measure Z has been tasked with assisting the Board of Supervisors in taking public input on the expenditure of funds derived from the county-wide local sales tax imposed pursuant to Measure Z. Twenty three applications for funding were received from various county departments and outside agencies. Two applicants chose to withdraw their applications, and four were determined by the Committee to not meet the spirit of Measure Z.

Three meetings were held in March to examine the various proposals received, and to weigh the value of each. The Committee has been asked to make recommendations on which proposals we feel should be funded, given the projected amount of revenue expected from the county-wide local sales tax. The total amount to be recommended is \$4,131,890. The total requested after revisions was \$5,379,615. Amount in reserve is \$864,000.

This was a difficult year since the revenues are decreasing by large amounts and the requests are valid and needed. The Advisory Committee had a very busy year. We not only held the regular meetings, but additional items needed to be addressed. A new application was created that addressed some of the items that the Committee felt we needed in order to make more informative decisions. One change we discussed was the need to be informed during the fiscal year as to the spending of the applicants that are chosen by the Board of Supervisors, and be able to confirm that their spending is in line with the applications that were considered. We were hoping the new format for the quarterly reports would address this concern.

On March 2, 2023 the Advisory Committee on Measure Z appointed an ad hoc committee tasked to examine the process our committee uses to provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. They spent two months visiting with different County Departments to ask questions of needs and how the Measure Z monies assist them.

On April 25, 2023 the Fiscal Year 2023-24 list of recommendations was provided to the Board, and at the County Administrative Officer's direction, discussion on the strain being felt by Measure Z was included as well as some of the ad hoc's activity regarding possible changes to the evaluation process. Each recommendation was voted on and approved by the Committee. The recommendations are below:

**Recommendation #1**

*Require a self-audit on staffing*

**Recommendation #2**

*Create a criteria for allowable costs*

**Recommendation #3**

*Create a reserve policy*

**Recommendation #4**

*Create a mechanism that would allow the committee to recommend partial funding of applications*

**Recommendation # 5**

*Require agencies to report on other funding sources they have pursued to replace Measure Z*

**Recommendation #6**

*Adopt a stance that the committee will not recommend any more county positions be funded with Measure Z*

**Recommendation #7**

*Establish a target of 67% of ongoing revenue to be allocated each year to county departments, to be achieved by FY 2026-27.*

In March 2024, after public comments, hearing from the applicants, reviewing each application carefully, and discussing the applications, the Advisory Committee ranked the applications thoroughly and fairly in spite of less money than in the past. The four agencies that the Board voted on to create three years of guaranteed funding are not included in the totals in our recommendations. There are three applicants that tied for the last amount available, and the Committee is sending this item back to the Board for the final decision regarding the outcome of those applicants. The total for those three agencies is \$256,281. All three are regarding law enforcement.

It seems clear that the discretionary monies of Measure Z are dwindling quickly, and that the job and responsibilities of the required Advisory Committee will be very minimal in the future until things turn around. The Advisory Committee has expressed a desire to be a part of the discussion on how the monies will be decided upon and which direction the Board intends to take as far as this mandated Advisory Committee. We look forward to having those discussions.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger Campbell, Chair, Measure Z