

Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee

March 29, 2021 Meeting

Agenda Handout

Subject: Measure D Oversight Committee, Public Comment Re: FY19/20 Measure D Annual Report, Agenda Item 5

From: Linda Wilshusen <l-j-w@pacbell.net>

Date: March 29, 2021 at 10:57:11 AM PDT

To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>

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Dear Members of the Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee:

Thank you very much for your volunteer service on this Oversight Committee on behalf of the voters of Santa Cruz County. I appreciated the opportunity to listen in on your meeting earlier this month, and I also appreciate the complexity of your duties.

I'm writing regarding the Committee's consideration of its *Measure D Annual Report* for FY19/20 (Agenda Item 5). While there were many expenditures and highlights of that fiscal year that I'm sure you will want to emphasize, one of the most notable activities was that the Regional Transportation Commission amended Measure D for the first time, and in a very significant way.

As you know, the [Ordinance](#) approved by the voters in November 2016 includes authorization to amend Measure D and sets forth the process by which it may be amended (Sections 24 and 25). The RTC followed the approved Ordinance process in amending Measure D in February 2020 to add two new Highway 1 projects to the voter-approved Measure D Highway Program: Auxiliary Lanes between State Park Drive and Freedom Blvd., and the Bus on Shoulder project between the Soquel Drive Interchange and Freedom Blvd. Along with other key regional projects, these new highway projects were identified in the [2019 Unified Corridor Investment Study](#) and represent a substantial enhancement to the Measure D Highway Program. The amendment did not change the allocation of revenue within the Program categories specified in the [Measure D Expenditure Plan](#).

A second point to note about this amendment is that it activated, for the first time, the Measure D amendment process, which is not well understood by the public. I believe it's

important that voters understand that Measure D can be amended by the RTC if the proposed amendment is consistent with the Ordinance and amendment procedures are followed. This provision may be relevant in the future for other Program categories and/or specific Measure D projects as mobility demands, environmental considerations, and legislative priorities change over the 30-year term of the Ordinance.

Thank you very much for your consideration, and thank you again for your service.

- Linda Wilshusen, RTC Executive Director 1985-2005

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