



---

Regional Transportation Planning Agency - Local Transportation Commission  
Monterey County Service Authority for Freeways & Expressways  
Monterey County Regional Development Impact Fee Joint Powers Agency  
Email: [info@tamcmonterey.org](mailto:info@tamcmonterey.org)

## **MEASURE X CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, July 21, 2020**

**\*\*2:00 PM\*\***

### **REMOTE CONFERENCE ONLY**

*There will be NO physical location of the meeting.*

*Please see all the special meeting instructions at the end of the agenda.*

**Join meeting online at**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/819167755?pwd=VE91U1FBK1lwOEQzMGHpdEMvY2tndz095>**

**OR**

**Via teleconference at +1 669 900 6833**

**Meeting ID: 819 167 755**

**Password: 614363**

### **1. ROLL CALL**

Call to order and self-introductions. If you are unable to attend, please contact Elouise Rodriguez, Senior Administrative Assistant. Your courtesy to the other members to assure a quorum is appreciated.

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any member of the public may address the Committee on any item not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Committee. Under this item, each member of the public is allowed three minutes to address concerns. Comments in items on this agenda may be given when that agenda item is discussed. Persons who wish to address the Committee for public comment or on an item on the agenda are encouraged to submit comments in writing to Maria at [maria@tamcmonterey.org](mailto:maria@tamcmonterey.org) by 5:00 pm the Friday before the meeting, and such comments will be distributed to the Committee before the meeting.

---

### **3. BEGINNING OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Approve the staff recommendations for items listed below by majority vote with one motion. Any member may pull an item off the Consent Agenda to be moved to the end of the **CONSENT AGENDA** for discussion and action.

**3.1 APPROVE** minutes of the May 5, 2020 committee meeting.

- Wright

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

---

4. **RECEIVE** presentation on Monterey-Salinas Transit's Measure X-funded projects, including the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit Project and the South County Operations and Maintenance Facility.

- Jacobsen

*Monterey-Salinas Transit initiated the environmental analysis and preliminary engineering for the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit project in November 2019. Construction of the South County Operations and Maintenance Facility is anticipated to start in August 2020.*

5. **RECEIVE** presentation Measure X compliance policies and potential options to temporarily modify the Measure X Maintenance of Effort requirement in response to COVID-19.

- Zeller

*A maintenance of effort requirement exists to assure that the cities and county do not use Measure X funding to backfill prior levels of transportation expenditures. In light of the current economic downturn related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Agency staff is reviewing potential options to temporarily modify the maintenance of effort requirement to provide relief to jurisdictions.*

6. **RECEIVE** presentation on the Monterey County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy.

- Zeller

*The Monterey County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) identifies conservation strategies with co-benefits to transportation infrastructure climate resiliency and public safety, and then proposes ways to implement those strategies as advance mitigation for the transportation improvements.*

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## 8. ADJOURN

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next Transportation Oversight Committee meeting:

**Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.**

Agricultural Center Conference Room

**1428 Abbott Street, Salinas**

*Light refreshments will be provided*

**If you have any items for the next agenda, please submit them to:**

**Theresa Wright**

**eXcellent Transportation Oversight Committee Coordinator**

[theresa@tamcmonterey.org](mailto:theresa@tamcmonterey.org)

Important Meeting Information

Remote Meetings: On March 12, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-25-20, which enhances State and Local Governments ability to respond to COVID-19 Pandemic based on Guidance for Gatherings issued by the California Department of Public Health. The Executive Order specifically allows local legislative bodies to hold meetings via teleconference and to make meetings accessible electronically, in order to protect public health. The public is strongly encouraged to use the Zoom app for best reception. Prior to the meeting, participants should download the Zoom app at: <https://zoom.us/download>. A link to simplified instruction for the use of the Zoom app is: <https://blog.zoom.us/wordpress/2018/07/03/video-communications-best-practice-guide/>.

Remote Meeting Public Comment: Due to current circumstances, there may be limited opportunity to provide verbal comments during the meeting. Persons who wish to address the Committee for public comment or on an item on the agenda are encouraged to submit comments in writing to [maria@tamcmonterey.org](mailto:maria@tamcmonterey.org) by 5:00pm the Friday before the meeting. Such comments will be distributed to the Committee before the meeting. Members of the public participating by Zoom are instructed to be on mute during the proceedings and to speak only when public comment is allowed, after requesting and receiving recognition from the Chair.

Agenda Packet and Documents: Any person who has a question concerning an item on this agenda may call or email the Agency office to make inquiry concerning the nature of the item described on the agenda. Complete agenda packets are on display online at the Transportation Agency for Monterey County website. Documents relating to an item on the open session that are distributed to the Committee less than 72 hours prior to the meeting shall be available for public review at the Agency website. Agency contact information is as follows:

Transportation Agency for Monterey County  
www.tamcmonterey.org  
Office is closed an all employees are working remotely until further notice  
TEL: 831-775-0903  
EMAIL: info@tamcmonterey.org

Agenda Items: The agenda will be prepared by Agency staff and will close at noon nine (9) working days before the regular meeting. Any member of the Committee may request in writing an item to appear on the agenda. The request shall be made by the agenda deadline and any supporting papers must be furnished by that time or be readily available.

Alternative Agenda Format and Auxiliary Aids: If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals requesting a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may contact Transportation Agency staff at 831-775-0903. Auxiliary aids or services include wheelchair accessible facilities, sign language interpreters, Spanish language interpreters, and printed materials in large print, Braille or on disk. These requests may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting and should be made at least 72 hours before the meeting. All reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate the request.

### **CORRESPONDENCE, MEDIA CLIPPINGS, AND REPORTS**



## ***Memorandum***

**To:** Measure X Citizens Oversight Committee  
**From:** Theresa Wright, Community Outreach Coordinator  
**Meeting Date:** July 21, 2020  
**Subject:** **Citizens Oversight Committee Minutes**

---

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**APPROVE** minutes of the May 5, 2020 committee meeting.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- ▣ Draft Minutes of the May 5, 2020 Meeting

**TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)  
Measure X Citizens Oversight Committee (X-TOC)  
DRAFT minutes of May 5, 2020 Meeting**

Held via a Zoom Meeting

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>JAN 2019</b>	<b>APR 2019</b>	<b>JUL 2019</b>	<b>OCT 2019</b>	<b>FEB 2020</b>	<b>MAY 2020</b>	<b>JUL 2020</b>	<b>OCT 2020</b>
Kevin Dayton <b>Salinas Valley Taxpayers Association</b> <i>(Rick Giffin)</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Cesar Lara <b>Transit Users</b> <i>(Monica Gurmilan)</i>	-	A	A	A	P	-		
Janet Brennan <b>League of Women Voters</b> <i>(Howard Fosler)</i>	P	P	A	P	P	P		
Tom Rowley <b>Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association</b> <i>(Rick Heuer)</i>	A	P	P	P	P	P		
Kalah Bumba <b>Senior or disabled services agency</b> <i>(Teresa Sullivan)</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Victoria Beach <b>Bicycling Advocate</b> <i>(Claire Rygg)</i>	P	E	E	P	-	P		
Rod Smalley <b>Labor Organization</b> <i>(Glen Schaller)</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Cliff Fasnacht <b>Central Coast Builders Association</b> <i>(Kristine O'Dell)</i>	-	A	A		-	-		
John Haupt <b>Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce</b> <i>(John Bailey)</i>	P	P	E		-	P		
Dan Limesand <b>Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce</b> <i>(vacant)</i>	P	P	E	P	P	P		
Scott Waltz <b>Habitat Preservation</b> <i>(Rachel Saunders, Big Sur Land Trust)</i>	E	P	A	-	P	P		

Barbara Meister <b>Hospitality</b> ( <i>Sam Teel</i> )	P A	P A	P A	- -	P P	P -		
Norm Groot <b>Agriculture</b> ( <i>Bill Lipe</i> )	P A	E E	P A	P	P -	P -		
Joshua Jorn <b>Education</b> ( <i>Jarrett Garife, Patrick Deberdt</i> )	P - P	A P -	A A P	P	- -	- A		
Paula Getzelman, Chair <b>South County</b> ( <i>Carol Kenyon</i> )	P P	P P	P A	P P	P -	P -		
Chris Barrera <b>Latino Organization</b> ( <i>Manuel Valencia</i> )	P -	E E	E P	- P	P -	P P		
Ron Rader <b>North County</b> ( <i>Scott Freeman</i> )	P -	E A	P A	P	P -	- -		
Daniel Hernandez <b>Pedestrian</b> (vacant)	- -	P -	A -	P	P	P		
Alexis Garcia-Arrazola <b>Youth/College</b> ( <i>Vacant</i> )	A -	P -	P -	P	P	P		
Sean Hebard <b>Construction</b> ( <i>Keith Severson</i> )	P P	P P	A P	P P	P P	P P		
<b>TRANSPORTATION AGENCY STAFF</b>								
Debbie Hale Executive Director	-	-	P	P	P	P		
Todd Muck, Deputy Executive Director	P	-	P	P	E	P		
Theresa Wright, Community Outreach Coordinator	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Mike Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner	P	P	-	P	E	P		
Kay Reimann, Transportation Agency Legal Counsel	-	P	P	E	P	-		
Rich Deal, Principal Transportation Engineer	-	-	-	E	P	-		
Stefania Castillo, Transportation Planner	-	-	P	P	-	P		
Rita Goel, Deputy for Admin & Finance	-	P	-	-	-	-		

Madilyn Jacobson, Transportation Planner	-	P	P	P	P	P		
Laurie Williams, Transportation Engineer	P	-	P	-	-	P		
Maria Montiel, Administrative Assistant				P	P	P		
Christina Watson, Principal Trans. Planner				-	-	-		
Ariana Green, Assoc. Transportation Planner				-	-	P		
Dave Delfino, Finance Officer/Analyst				-	-	-		
<i>(alternate)</i> <b>P-PRESENT</b> <b>E-EXCUSED</b> <b>A-ABSENT</b> <b>V- VACANT POSITION</b>								

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Anna Velazquez                      Public

**1.            WELCOME**

Barbara Meister, Committee Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Vice Chair Meister asked Maria Montiel, TAMC’s Administrative Assistant, to do roll call.

**2.            PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**3.3          APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

**M/S/C**      Hebard/ Groot/ unanimously

**3.1**          Approved draft minutes of the February 18, 2020 committee meeting.



**4. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL UPDATE**

The Committee received an update on the Measure X Safe Routes School Program.

Ariana Green, Associate Transportation Planner, TAMC, explained that the Safe Routes to School Program is a Measure X-funded initiative. The initiative funds projects and programs that improve children's health by making walking and bicycling safer and easier. Ms. Green's report included an update on the Seaside & Marina Safe Routes to School Plan, the Safe Routes to School Education Program, and the MY Town Exhibit, which is a traveling children's exhibit design to teach traffic safety and other healthy life skills to young children and their guardians.

Ms. Green also reported that TAMC staff successfully secured more than \$2.9 million in state grants in 2019 to pilot Safe Routes to School Programs at 11 schools across Monterey County and to develop a Salinas Safe Routes to School Plan for all 44 K-12 schools in the City of Salinas. She ended her presentation by presenting the Safe Routes to School Program goals for this year which include the launch of a comprehensive Measure X Safe Routes to School website, implementing the education program, developing the Salinas Safe Routes to School Plan and applying for Active Transportation Program Cycle 5 funds.

At the conclusion, Committee member Victoria Beach said staff should consider adding Measure X leveraging information on matching funds for the community and public to view.

Committee member Chris Barrera mentioned that a crosswalk light is needed at Everette Alvarez High School. He also asked if the program could cover the cost for crossing guards. Ms. Green replied that the program does not pay for crossing guards but will provide training equipment for crossing guards.

Committee member Tom Rowley asked about Safe Routes to School plans for schools in the City of Monterey. Ariana Green replied that the City of Monterey has a bike school plan and that community is covered.

**5. SECOND YEAR AUDIT RESULTS**

The Committee received a presentation on the Measure X Second Year Audit results and the Measure X Annual Report.

Theresa Wright, Community Outreach Coordinator introduced Committee Member Kevin Dayton, who served on the Measure X Audit Subcommittee. Mr. Dayton reported that the Measure X Citizens Oversight Committee continues to show voters in Monterey County how the Measure X funds are spent wisely. He noted that the Audit subcommittee conducted the second-year audit and prepared the Measure X Annual Report.

Prior to presenting the results of the audit, Mr. Dayton reviewed that the duties of the subcommittee are to conduct the audit, report their findings to the full committee and prepare the Measure X Annual Report.

Mr. Dayton reported that the compliance was better than last year with the exception of the City of Greenfield who submitted late due to lack of the city having a Public Works Director which

contributed to the city's failure to comply by the due date. In conclusion Mr. Dayton noted that the full report is on the TAMC Annual Report that every Monterey County resident is receiving in the mail.

**6. SENIOR & DISABLED TRANSPORTATION CYCLE 2 AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS**

**M/S** Dayton/ Bumba

Noes: Norm Groot and Paula Getzelman

The Committee recommended that the Transportation Agency Board of Directors award Measure X Cycle 2 funds to the top three applicants (ITN Monterey County, Alliance on Aging, Partnership for Children) with the option to fund the fourth ranked applicant (Kernes Memorial Pool) if there are sufficient funds left over from Cycle 1.

Stefania Castillo, Transportation Planner, reported that the Transportation Agency received five applications for Cycle 2 Awards. Three from returning applicants (ITN Monterey County, Alliance on Aging, Kernes Memorial Pool) and two new applicants (Partnership for Children, North County Recreation and Park District).

Agency staff determined that all five applications were complete and in compliance with the Program Guidelines requirements. She noted that a grant review committee composed of members of the Oversight Committee and Transportation Agency staff conducted an initial review of the application materials and met to draft a list of follow-up questions for the newly required on-site field visits. After the interviews were conducted, the grant review committee ranked the applications.

In conclusion Ms. Castillo said that the grant review committee found that the North County Recreation and Park District's proposed program was not well defined, and all reviewers ranked the Park District's application the lowest. Agency staff recommended that the lowest ranking applicant not be funded, bringing the total requests to \$1,705,500 which is \$205,500 above the \$1.5 million Measure X funds available for Cycle 2. To date, approximately \$300,000 remain unbilled from Cycle 1. Current grantees have until June 30, 2020, to expend the funds, with the final claim documentation due by July 31, 2020. Staff expects some funds to carry over but not the full amount.

Staff recommended that the Agency Board of Directors award Measure X Cycle 2 funds to the top three applicants (ITN Monterey County, Alliance on Aging and Partnership for Children) with the option to fund the fourth ranked option (Kernes Memorial Pool) if there are sufficient funds leftover from Cycle 1.

Following the presentation, Anna Velazquez, member of public, expressed that more services in South County are needed. She suggested that the granted applicants should collaborate on expanding service to serve South Monterey County; and to consider other non-profit organizations in South County like the Salvation Army in Soledad. Staff agreed to reach out to them.

Committee member Chris Barrera said that South County has no non-profit organizations and that the program lacked equity. He stressed that the program goal should be to create a non-profit for people that need services, so they are not left out. Stefania Castillo replied that Agency staff will continue to outreach in South County.

Kevin Dayton noted that while expressing concerned about the lack of transportation issues in South County, the Committee recommends the three grants, and acknowledge the lack of equity.

Executive Director Debbie Hale mentioned that Transportation Agency will come up with more statistics. She noted that ITN new program that will assist South County.

Committee member Theresa Sullivan noted that Alliance on Aging has been reaching out to the cities in South County to partner with them on serving the residents in South County.

Community Outreach Coordinator Theresa Wright emphasized that the current funding request by the Alliance on Aging will enhance their efforts in South County.

Committee member Chris Barrera noted that at the end of the day there is lack of equity in South County and there is need to fund all three programs. He said that Transportation Agency staff should “go above and beyond” to form a non-profit in one city in South County for them to be served. He also asked for TAMC to invite Supervisor Chris Lopez and others to help address the need.

The Committee recommended that the Agency Board of Directors award Measure X Cycle 2 funds to the top three applicants (ITN Monterey County, Alliance on Aging and Partnership for Children) with the option to fund the fourth ranked option (Kernes Memorial Pool) if there are sufficient funds leftover from Cycle 1.

After extensive discussion, Committee member Kevin Dayton motioned that the Measure X Oversight Committee encourages the TAMC Board to closely examine the sufficiency of transportation in South County cycle 2. The motion was seconded by Committee member Kalah Bumba. Motion passes on a vote of 13 yes and 2 noes with committee members Norm Groot and Paula Getzelman voting no.

## **7. UPDATE ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON AGENCY ACTIVITIES AND FINANCES**

The Committee received a presentation on Agency activities related to shelter-in-place orders to contain COVID-19 transmission and estimated impacts to Measure X revenue.

Todd Muck, Deputy Executive Director, reported that to comply with Monterey County and State California shelter-in-place orders, all Transportation Agency staff have been working remotely since March 16, except to complete essential financial activities.

He said that staff has been able to work remotely utilizing connections to their office computers and/or using internet-based productivity applications. Working remotely has been facilitated by the Agency’s recent transition from an in-office computer server to cloud-based file storage data back-up.

Mr. Muck said agency staff has been working with vendors to shift from paper invoices and payment checks to digital invoices and electronic fund transfer payments. He noted that TAMC was one of the first government agencies to hold a video public meeting and has provided advice and assistance to others, including Monterey-Salinas Transit and the Fort Ord Reuse Authority. He said staff continues to refine these remote meeting techniques as experience with various software platforms, safeguards and public input strategies grows.

In conclusion Mr. Muck remarked that Agency staff have been working closely with projects sponsors and state regulatory agencies to address potential project delays due to the COVID-19 crisis. He also noted that the California Transportation Commission is considering relaxing some of its timely use of funds requirements to take into account any project delays caused by the shelter-in-place order. He said that they are also considering delaying the due date for the Active Transportation Program grant applications, currently scheduled for mid-June.

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS**

Theresa Wright mentioned that the next Transportation Oversight Committee meeting will be on July 21, 2020 and we will confirm the location closer to the meeting date.

Kevin Dayton asked how many vacancies in the Transportation Oversight Committee? Theresa Wright replied that there are four vacancies.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair Meister adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.



## **Memorandum**

**To:** Measure X Citizens Oversight Committee  
**From:** Madilyn Jacobsen, Transportation Planner  
**Meeting Date:** July 21, 2020  
**Subject:** **Monterey-Salinas Transit Measure X Projects Update**

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**RECEIVE** presentation on Monterey-Salinas Transit's Measure X-funded projects, including the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit Project and the South County Operations and Maintenance Facility.

### **SUMMARY:**

Monterey-Salinas Transit initiated the environmental analysis and preliminary engineering for the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit project in November 2019. Construction of the South County Operations and Maintenance Facility is anticipated to start in August 2020.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Funding for the SURF! Busway project is available from Measure X (up to a total of \$15 million). The current phase of preliminary engineering and environmental analysis budgeted at \$1,450,000 of Measure X funds and \$100,000 of MST's share of state SB 1 Local Partnership Program funds. Additional matching funds will be needed to fully fund the project, which currently has a total estimated cost of \$52 million.

The total cost of construction of the South County Maintenance and Operations Facility is estimated at \$14,579,700. MST and TAMC entered a funding agreement to provide \$10,359,695 in Measure X Funds to the project under the regional "Commuter Bus, Salinas Valley Transit Center(s) & Vanpools" project; a total of \$25 million in Measure X Investment Plan Funding is identified for this category.

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### **SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit Project**

Identified in Measure X as "Highway 1 Traffic Relief - Busway," the recently renamed SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit project aims to create a new bus-only corridor, paralleling Highway 1 between Monterey and Marina. The busway would be built within the Monterey Branch Line rail right-of-way owned by the Transportation Agency to provide commuters a traffic-free alternative to Highway 1. The SURF! project was identified in Measure X with the goals of:

- Increasing transit service
- Reducing transit and automobile delay along Highway 1, and
- Improving air quality

In Fall 2019, MST hired Kimley-Horn to conduct the environmental review and preliminary design work, which officially kicked-off on November 21, 2019. Since project initiation, MST and TAMC have been meeting with key stakeholders. The project has generally received positive feedback. The project team is planning virtual public outreach

activities to start later this summer. Video simulations of travel along the corridor are being developed and will be ready within the next two months.

MST is actively pursuing matching funds to help pay for the project, including coordinating with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to apply for a Capital Investment Grant, a discretionary grant program to support transit capital investments including busways/bus rapid transit systems. The project has been accepted into the Project Development phase of FTA's Capital Investments Grants program, which is the first step towards obtaining funding.

### **South County Operations and Maintenance Facility**

As part of the Measure X category of "Commuter Bus, Salinas Valley Transit Center(s) & Vanpools," the South County Operations and Maintenance Facility will accommodate existing and future transit needs in Monterey's South County. This Maintenance and Operations Facility will allow buses currently housed in Salinas and Monterey to be relocated to South County. The project will increase operating efficiency by reducing deadhead (empty bus) travel time, allowing MST to deploy more transit service throughout South County at minimal extra cost.

MST is pursuing a very-low interest loan from the U. S. Department of Transportation to finance this facility. MST has already begun to incur design costs, and expects to incur construction costs, before receipt of the federal loan. Construction on the Facility is anticipated to begin in August 2020, and completion is scheduled for September 2021.

MST and TAMC entered a regional funding agreement in May 2020 to provide up to \$10,359,695 for the construction of the facility, with \$2,399,695 for construction costs in FY 2020/21 and \$7,960,000 for loan repayments (FY 2020 through 2029/30).



## **Memorandum**

**To:** Citizens Oversight Committee  
**From:** Michael Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner  
**Meeting Date:** July 21, 2020  
**Subject:** **Measure X Compliance & Maintenance of Effort Requirements**

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**RECEIVE** presentation Measure X compliance policies and potential options to temporarily modify the Measure X Maintenance of Effort requirement in response to COVID-19.

### **SUMMARY:**

A maintenance of effort requirement exists to assure that the cities and county do not use Measure X funding to backfill prior levels of transportation expenditures. In light of the current economic downturn related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Agency staff is reviewing potential options to temporarily modify the maintenance of effort requirement to provide relief to jurisdictions.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Approved by 69% of the voters in 2016, Measure X was projected to generate an estimated \$20 million annually, for a total of \$600 million over thirty years. Revenues have been collected since April, 2017 and the receipts for fiscal year 2018/19 totaled \$30.46 million. The current forecast estimates that revenues will decline to \$23.95 million for fiscal year 2019/20. The funding source is a retail transactions and use tax of 3/8 cents. The revenue from the sales tax measure can only be used to fund eligible transportation safety and mobility projects in Monterey County.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Transportation Agency has fiduciary responsibility for the administration of the voter-approved Transportation Safety and Investment Plan (Measure X) funds. Each jurisdiction entered into a tax sharing agreement with the Transportation Agency in order to receive their share of Measure X Local Streets & Roads revenues. In exchange, these agreements require the jurisdictions to submit audit reports annually to the Transportation Agency detailing the steps taken to comply with the implementing ordinance, which includes a requirement for "maintenance of effort."

The second year of Measure X reporting, for fiscal year 2018/19, was due on December 31, 2019. For this year's independent audits, there has been a marked improvement in compliance by the jurisdictions from the previous reporting period. All of the jurisdictions, with the exception of Greenfield, submitted their complete reports by the December 31, 2019 deadline.

For Pacific Grove, due to unanticipated project delays and the change in the Maintenance of Effort calculation methodology, the City did not make enough project expenditures to meet their Maintenance of Effort requirement. For the City of Salinas, their annual report indicated that Measure X funds were spent on a project that the City had been informed by the Transportation Agency was ineligible. In both instances, the cities have repaid the funds to their Measure X accounts from non-Measure X sources as remediation. The Transportation Agency Board approved at the

February 2020 meeting that this course of action brought the cities back into compliance with the Measure X implementing ordinance and funding agreement.

At the April 2020 meeting of the Measure X Citizens Oversight Committee, committee members requested that Transportation Agency staff return with potential options for additional actions that may be taken with jurisdictions that are not in compliance. Currently, the Measure X ordinance and funding agreements establish a clear procedure for the enforcement of policies. The ordinance calls for funds to be withheld for up to two years until a jurisdiction rectifies the issue and is back in compliance. After two years of non-compliance, the withheld funds will be re-distributed to the remaining jurisdictions by formula. Agency staff is proposing additionally to deposit any interest earned on withheld funds in the Measure X regional account as payment for the administrative costs of withholding funds.

Looking ahead to future Measure X annual reporting periods, there is a possibility that due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic that jurisdictions may not be able to meet their maintenance of effort requirements. The purpose of the Maintenance of Effort requirement is to assure that no funds previously used for transportation are shifted to other uses and then back-filled with Measure X monies - the so-called "bait and switch." The Measure X implementing ordinance was recently amended to revise the maintenance of effort calculation from a rolling three-year average to the higher of a jurisdiction's Senate Bill 1 Maintenance of Effort amount or the amount of general fund expenditures on transportation in the 2016/17 fiscal year, adjusted annually for inflation.

However, on March 19, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 directing all individuals in the State of California to stay at home or at their place of residence, in order to protect the health and well-being of all Californians due to the State of Emergency resulting from COVID-19 pandemic. The order will stay in effect until further notice. The resulting economic downturn related to the pandemic have left many jurisdictions across the State with significantly lower revenues while also diverting existing funds to emergency relief.

To address this unusual circumstance, the Agency has been asked to consider temporary modifications to the Measure X Maintenance of Effort requirement. Transportation Agency staff presented this issue at the June Technical Advisory Committee meeting and received feedback from the Committee members that the State of Emergency is affecting spending on transportation projects differently for each jurisdiction. Several reported that they had cancelled all or some of their planned projects, while others stated that they would be moving forward with projects as planned and budgeted, in some cases due to the maintenance of effort requirement. One option would be to set a new, lower maintenance of effort requirement on a temporary basis. Given the varied local budget situations, however, Agency staff proposes to address requests for temporary modifications to the maintenance of effort requirement on a case-by-case basis, if there is sufficient supportive data provided by the jurisdiction.





## Memorandum

**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Michael Zeller, Principal Transportation Planner  
**Meeting Date:** July 21, 2020  
**Subject:** **Regional Conservation Investment Strategy Presentation**

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**RECEIVE** presentation on the Monterey County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy.

### **SUMMARY:**

The Monterey County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) identifies conservation strategies with co-benefits to transportation infrastructure climate resiliency and public safety, and then proposes ways to implement those strategies as advance mitigation for the transportation improvements.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The total project budget is \$466,970. The Transportation Agency received a \$375,810 grant from the Caltrans Adaptation Planning grant program to develop the Monterey County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy. This grant is being matched with \$91,160 Measure X funds from the Habitat Management / Advance Mitigation program. The receipt of these grant funds leverages the Measure X funds over seven times.

### **DISCUSSION:**

A state law passed in 2016, AB 2087, established a conservation planning tool called a Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) to promote the conservation of species, habitats, and other natural resources.

The **Monterey County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy** (or Strategy) is designed to assess the vulnerability of species and habitat to climate change related stressors and pressures (temperature shift, precipitation change, drought, and wildfire, among others); and develop conservation actions to improve species and habitat resiliency from the identified stressors. Conservation actions identified in the Strategy may be then be turned into mitigation credits that can streamline project delivery and result in superior species conservation. Some examples of potential conservation strategies that could be identified through the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy include:

- Wildlife crossings under or over State highways and highly-travelled regional corridors, such as the Scenic State Route 68 between Monterey and Salinas, that preserve and improve habitat connectivity while reducing animal-vehicle conflict points;
- Wetlands protection and restoration that protects from the effects of flooding and storm water impacts, such as potentially restoring Santa Cruz Long-Toed Salamander pond habitat for the State Route 156 in north Monterey County; and
- Land acquisition for species and habitat restoration and conservation (including preservation of agricultural

lands) that creates a more drought-tolerant landscape and healthy species habitat as well as protects nearby infrastructure from climate-related events such as wildfires and landslides.

With the passage of Senate Bill 1 and Measure X, Monterey County's self-help transportation sales tax measure, the Transportation Agency for Monterey County has habitat mitigation needs for numerous regional transportation improvements in corridors that are highly constrained by environmental factors, with some projects lying within the coastal zone. These habitat protection needs present an opportunity to develop the Monterey County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy to identify conservation strategies with co-benefits to transportation infrastructure climate resiliency and public safety, and then implement those strategies as advance mitigation for the transportation improvements.

The Strategy will seek to accomplish the following specific objectives:

- Identify locations for habitat and agricultural mitigation for transportation projects, to create more meaningful land preservation and improve the resource agency approval process
- Identify adaptation strategies to remedy identified climate-related vulnerabilities;
- Advance the planning of specific climate adaptation projects; and
- Provide benefits to disadvantaged and vulnerable communities.

To assist with the development of the Monterey County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy, the Transportation Agency contracted with AECOM consultants. TAMC convened a steering committee composed of Caltrans, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Nature Conservancy. A broader stakeholder committee was also established that included local conservation organizations, such as the Elkhorn Slough Foundation and the Big Sur Land Trust, and other public agencies, such as the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The Agency has held regular steering committee and stakeholder meetings to solicit feedback during the development of the Strategy.

The components of the draft Strategy include: 1) establishing the Regional Setting and identifying the boundaries of the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy, which in this case is all of Monterey County; 2) developing a list of Focal Species that will be considered as part of the strategy; 3) determining the Pressures and Stressors that are impacting the focal species (such as airborne pollutants, sensitivity to flooding or temperature changes, and loss of habitat or connectivity); and 4) crafting Conservation Strategies that help to support continued persistence of species through the protection, enhancement, restoration, and creation of habitat.

The comment period on the administrative draft Conservation Strategy component recently closed, and the Agency received over 180 comments from a variety of government agencies and conservation organizations. The Agency's consulting team will respond to these comments and develop a draft of the Monterey County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy, which will be available for public review in July 2020.

The release of the draft Strategy will coincide with an online public meeting to receive further comments and feedback. Holding a public meeting on the proposed RCIS is a requirement of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife guidelines, which also requires sending notification of the meeting to all of the cities and counties within the RCIS boundary, as well as all of the cities and counties adjacent to the boundary.

Once all public comment has been incorporated into the draft Strategy, a final draft will be brought back to the Board for consideration at the August 2020 meeting. If approved by the Board, the final draft will then be submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for final approval. Once finalized, the Strategy can be used to develop Mitigation Credit Agreements to facilitate advance mitigation planning in advance of transportation project impacts, resulting in conservation actions that have greater benefit and expedited project delivery.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Regional Conservation Investment Strategy - List of Focal Species



### 3.2 Focal Species

Table 3-1 shows the 28 selected focal species and three focal OCEs and describes the justification for selection based on the considerations described above.

**Table 3-1. Focal Species and Focal Other Conservation Elements and Justification for Selection**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Special Status	Region	Natural Community (Modified from CWHR types)	Additional Information
<b>Focal Wildlife Species</b>					
burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	SSC	All	Agriculture, Annual Grassland, Coastal Scrub, Valley Oak Woodland	Steeply declining
California brackish water snail	<i>Tryonia imitator</i>	G2S2	CS	Saline Emergent Wetland	Only species of brackish marshes
California condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	FE, SE	BSC, GBP	Closed-Cone Pine-Cypress, Montane Hardwood, Coastal Scrub, Rocky Outcroppings	Major relocation area
California newt	<i>Taricha torosa</i>	SSC	BSC, ICR, MICR	Coastal Oak Woodland, Blue Oak Woodland, Coastal Scrub, Fresh Emergent Wetland, Riparian	Coast live oak woodland species
California red-legged frog	<i>Rana draytonii</i>	FT	All	Freshwater Emergent Wetland, Coastal Oak Woodland, Valley Oak Woodland, Annual Grassland	Successful conservation measures in practice
California tiger salamander	<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	FT, ST	SV, GBP, ICR	Freshwater Emergent Wetland, Valley Oak Woodland, Mixed Chaparral, Annual Grassland, Vernal Pool	Monterey County is epicenter for hybridization with invasive barred tiger salamander
coast horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	SSC	MB, ICR, MICR, OCR	Coastal Dune, Coastal Scrub, Mixed Chaparral, Montane Chaparral	Steeply declining on coast
foothill yellow-legged frog	<i>Rana boylei</i>	SC	GBP, OCR	Riverine, Riparian	Endemic genetic clade
Monarch butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i> pop. 1	None	MB, MP, BSC	Montane Hardwood, Closed-Cone Pine-Cypress	Occurs on native Monterey Pine in Monterey County

Common Name	Scientific Name	Special Status	Region	Natural Community (Modified from CWHR types)	Additional Information
mountain lion	<i>Puma concolor</i>	Special Protection	All	All	Umbrella species for corridors
pallid bat	<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	SSC	All	All	Surrogate for other bat species
San Joaquin kit fox	<i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>	FE, ST	SAV, MICR	Annual Grasslands, Valley Oak Woodland, Blue Oak Woodland	Currently restricted to the southern part of the county, but is anticipated to re-colonize former range
Santa Cruz long-toed salamander	<i>Ambystoma macrodactylum croceum</i>	FT, ST	MB, SR	Freshwater Emergent Wetland, Coniferous Forest, Agriculture	Near-endemic to Monterey County
Smith's blue butterfly	<i>Euphilotes enoptes smithi</i>	FE	MB, MP, BSC	Coastal Scrub, Perennials Grasslands, Mixed Chaparral, Coastal Dune	Near-endemic to Monterey County
southern sea otter	<i>Enhydra lutris neries</i>	FT	MB, MP, BSC	Marine, Estuarine	Only marine species
Steelhead (South-Central California Coast steelhead Distinct Population Segment)	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i>	FT	SR, CR, NR, PR	River, Riparian	Near endemic to Monterey County
Tidewater goby	<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>	FE, SSC	MB, SR, PR	Saline Emergent Wetland, Estuarine	Unique coastal and estuarine habitats
tricolored blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	ST	All	Freshwater Emergent Wetland, Agriculture, Annual Grassland	Steeply declining
vernal pool fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	FE	ICR, SAV	Vernal Pool	Only vernal pool invertebrate
western snowy plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	FE	MB	Coastal Dune, Coastal Scrub	Only coastal strand animal
<b>Focal Plant Species</b>					
Carmel Valley bush mallow	<i>Malacothrix palmeri</i>	CRPR 1B.2	CV, ICR, MICR, OCR	Coastal Scrub, Interior Chaparral	Representative of interior chaparral, and Carmel Valley
Lemmon's jewelflower	<i>Caulanthus lemmonii</i>	CRPR 1B.2	ICR, SAV, SM, GPB	Annual Grassland, Perennial Grasslands	Representative of native grassland areas



Common Name	Scientific Name	Special Status	Region	Natural Community (Modified from CWHR types)	Additional Information
Hickman's onion	<i>Allium hickmanii</i>	CRPR 1B.2	MP, ICR, CV, BSC	Wet Meadow, Mixed Chaparral, Closed-Cone Pine-Cypress	Near-endemic to Monterey County
Monterey gilia	<i>Gilia tenuiflora ssp. arenaria</i>	FE, ST, CRPR 1B.2	MB	Mixed Chaparral, Coastal Dune, Coastal Scrub	Endemic State and federally listed species
Monterey spineflower	<i>Chorizanthe pungens var. pungens</i>	FT, CRPR 1B.2	MB, ICR	Coastal Dune, Coastal Scrub, Mixed Chaparral	Near-endemic to Monterey County
Pajaro manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos pajaroensis</i>	CRPR 1B.1	PR, GBR, MB, OCR, ICR, SV	Mixed Chaparral, Interior Chaparral	Near-endemic to Monterey County; unique habitat on sandstone chaparral
seaside bird's-beak	<i>Cordylanthus rigidus ssp. littoralis</i>	SE, CRPR 1B.1	MB, OCR	Mixed Chaparral, Coastal Dune	Near-endemic to Monterey County
Yadon's rein orchid	<i>Piperia yadonii</i>	FE, CRPR 1B.1	MP, GBR	Mixed Chaparral, Closed-Cone Pine-Cypress, Coastal Oak Woodland	Endemic to Monterey County
<b>Other Conservation Elements</b>					
California sycamore woodlands	<i>Platanus racemosa</i> Alliance	S3	BSC, CV, CR, GBP, ICR, MICR, NR, OCR, SAR, SAV, SR	Freshwater Emergent Wetland, Riparian	Sensitive community representing riparian areas
Monterey pine forest	<i>Pinus muricata</i> - <i>Pinus radiata</i> Alliance	S3	MP, CV	Closed-Cone Pine-Cypress	Sensitive community representing fully endemic habitat within Monterey County
Valley oak woodland	<i>Pinus muricata</i> - <i>Pinus radiata</i> Alliance	S3	All	Valley Oak Woodland	Sensitive community representing fully endemic habitat in Monterey County

### Notes for Table 3-1

#### Listing Status

- E = Federally Endangered
- FT = Federally Threatened
- SE = State Endangered
- ST = State Threatened
- SSC = State Species of Special Concern
- CRPR = California Native Plant Rank
- 1B.1 = seriously threatened in California and elsewhere (over 80% of occurrences threatened)
- 1B.2 = moderately threatened in California and elsewhere (20-80% of occurrences are threatened).
- IUCN NT = International Union for Conservation of Nature status of "Near Threatened"

#### Regions

- All = All terrestrial regions
- BSC = Big Sur Coast Line
- CV = Carmel Valley
- CS = Coastal Strand
- CR = Carmel River
- GBP = Gabilan Range and Pinnacles National Monument
- ICR = Inner Coast Range
- MB = Monterey Bay Coastline
- MICR = Mid Inner Coast Range
- MP = Monterey Peninsula to Pt. Lobos
- NR = Nacimiento River
- OCR = Outer Coast Ranges
- PR = Pajaro River
- SAR = San Antonio River
- SAV = San Antonio Valley
- SLR = Santa Lucia Range
- SLV = Salinas Valley
- SM = Stockdale Mountain
- SR = Salinas River and Associated Corridor