



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 20-0522

Agenda Date: 6/23/2020

Item No.: *2.8.

SUPPLEMENTAL BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT:

Update on Exploratory Efforts to Update and Enhance the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program for a Future Funding Measure.

REASON FOR SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM:

This report conveys additional information received after the initial report was released, consistent with Executive Limitations Policy EL-7-10-5.

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. Receive information on the collective public engagement efforts, resulting in draft community-preferred program report;
- B. Receive information on the final proposed ballot language;
- C. Provide direction to staff on the draft community-preferred program report for the renewal of the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program;
- D. Provide direction to staff to bring back the final renewal ballot measure and final community-preferred program report for the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program in July for Board's final consideration of ballot placement adoption.

SUMMARY:

In accordance with direction received from the Board of Directors during the December 10, 2019 Board meeting, staff has explored the feasibility and the development of a potential November 2020 ballot measure to replace and renew the existing special parcel tax for the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program (Safe, Clean Water Program) beyond its current expiration in 2028.

The additional information provided in this supplemental board agenda item includes the final combined Community Input Survey data results, as well as the full community-preferred draft program report of the proposed Safe, Clean Water Program renewal.

Community-Preferred Draft Program Report

In December, Valley Water launched both an internal and external effort to design a proposed Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program renewal that is reflective of the community's needs, priorities, and desires while building upon the existing expertise of Valley Water program and project staff responsible for implementing many of the current projects. As part of this process, Valley

Water conducted an extensive 6-month public engagement effort to reassess community priorities and formulate an updated Community-Preferred Draft Program Report (Attachment 1) as the part of a potential renewal measure to update and enhance the Safe, Clean Water Program to better meet the community's existing and future water needs.

The draft program report serves as a roadmap to update and enhance the Safe, Clean Water Program by including six top community priorities: securing a safe, reliable water supply; protecting our water system from earthquakes and natural disasters; preventing contaminants from entering the water supply; restoring habitat for fish, birds and wildlife and increasing open space; enhancing flood protection; and the newly proposed: supporting public health and public safety for our community.

Community Input Survey Results:

As part of the public engagement effort, an online community input survey was developed and released in February. The online surveys were provided in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese, and also included a student version to reach Santa Clara County youth as well. Approximately 15,000 survey inputs were gathered countywide.

As a result, staff was able to aggregate survey data of all the combined surveys gathered up through mid-June to determine rankings and help validate priorities. The full data report (Attachment 2), including comments is attached. Below is a high-level summary of the overall results for each survey question. *(percentages rounded up)*

1. Ensuring a safe, reliable drinking water supply for the future by improving and maintaining dams, pipelines, water storage, treatment systems, and aging infrastructure to avoid disruptions in service.

(Overall, 97%)

- 64% feel this is Extremely Important
- 22% feel this is Very Important
- 11% feel this is Important

2. Reducing and removing toxins, hazards and contaminants like mercury or pharmaceuticals from local creeks, streams and reservoirs.

(Overall, 96%).

- 67% feel this is Extremely Important
- 19% feel it is Very Important
- 10% feel this is Important

3. Protecting our water supply, water quality, dams and flood protection channels from earthquakes, natural disasters, and climate change.

(Overall, 95%).

- 58% feel this is Extremely Important
- 24% feel this is Very Important
- 13% feel this is Important

4. Restoring fish, bird and wildlife habitat in and around local creeks, streams and the Bay to ensure a healthy environment.

(Overall, 88%)

- 45% feel this is Extremely Important
- 23% feel this is Very Important
- 20% feel this is Important

5. Providing flood protection to protect local homes, businesses, schools, streets, and highways from flooding.

(Overall, 87%)

- 42% feel this is Extremely Important
- 24% feel this is Very Important
- 21% feel this is Important

6. Providing creek cleanups, vegetation management and tree removal near creeks to lessen the threat of flooding and wildfires.

(Overall, 87%)

- 40% feel this is Extremely Important
- 24% feel this is Very Important
- 23% feel this is Important

7. Building sustainable, locally controlled water supply projects that are drought resilient.

(Overall, 91%)

- 47% feel this is Extremely Important
- 25% feel this is Very Important
- 19% feel this is Important

8. Increasing public recreational access in and around local creeks, streams, and the Bay.

(Overall, 66%)

- 24% feel this is Extremely Important
- 16% feel this is Very Important
- 26% feel this is Important

9. Supporting public health and public safety for our community by increasing police patrols along waterways and ensuring protections for water quality

(Overall, 71%)

- 28% feel this is Extremely Important
- 18% feel this is Very Important
- 25% feel this is Important

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no change to the originally reported financial impact associated with this item.

CEQA:

The recommended action does not constitute a project under CEQA because it does not have a potential for resulting in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

ATTACHMENTS:

- *Supplemental Attachment 1: Community-Preferred Draft Program
- *Supplemental Attachment 2: Community Input Data Compiled
- *Supplemental Attachment 3: PowerPoint

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

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