



July 20, 2006

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The Honorable Rodney Melville
Superior Court
312-M East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93455-5165

Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury
Attention: Ted Sten, Foreman
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Judge Melville and Members of the Grand Jury:

The 2005-06 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury released its report entitled, "Measure D - Progress as Promised?" The report names the City of Goleta as an affected agency and requires that the City provide responses to the relevant findings and recommendations. The City of Goleta's responses are included in this letter.

Finding 2: The 70% of Measure D revenues allocated to local agencies has resulted in significant improvements in road and street pavement condition, local transit shuttle services in Carpinteria and Santa Barbara, and upgrades to the transportation infrastructures of the County and cities.

The City of Goleta agrees with this finding. Measure D funds a significant portion of the City's annual Street Improvement and Reinvestment Program which has resulted in significant improvements to the City's transportation infrastructure. This program includes pavement overlay and slurry seal projects, replacement of damaged concrete sidewalks, curbs and gutters, and the installation of new concrete access ramps throughout the City.

Finding 4: The program of projects prepared by the cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara and Santa Maria do not specify in sufficient detail how their Measure D funds will be spent. The categories are too broad to provide transparency for their plans.

The City of Goleta partially agrees with the finding. The City of Goleta's annual program of projects includes the annual amount of Measure D

funds budgeted towards various types of street maintenance activities, transit and capital improvements as appropriate. The street maintenance activities include pavement rehabilitation, concrete repairs and tree maintenance. The concrete repairs and street tree maintenance projects are city wide and are scalable based on available budget. Once the available budget is determined, the annual project scope is finalized. The scope may be revised upward or downward based on the unit price bid for the maintenance activity. This provides the greatest amount of flexibility in using the Measure D funds for these activities. Including a detailed list of locations for these activities is not done due to the number of locations improved throughout the City. However, the City understands the importance of transparency in the use of Measure D funds for these purposes and will revise future program of projects to show greater detail on the Measure D expenditures programmed for pavement rehabilitation.

Finding 5: SBCAG, the cities and the County Public Works Department and the paratransit operators have not adequately publicized the positive results achieved through Measure D. This has allowed the public debate to be focused on a narrow set of policy issues, such as desirability of mass transit vs. roads.

The City of Goleta agrees with this finding. There is always more that can be done to publicize the positive results of Measure D throughout the County. To this end, the City has implemented several measures to inform City residents on the benefits of Measure D. This includes public notices, direct mailers and door hangers to every parcel adjacent to any Measure D-funded street improvement project. The city also requires the placement of Measure D signs at all Measure D-funded street improvement projects as well as on construction vehicles. Earlier this year, the City initiated a quarterly newsletter that is mailed to every City resident and business. An article on the benefits of the Measure D Program was included in the first newsletter that was issued in May of this year.

Recommendation 1: Publicize the results of Measure D to date to raise the awareness of voters and enable them to make an informed decision about reauthorizing the transportation sales tax.

The City of Goleta agrees with this recommendation. As stated in Finding 5 above, the City will continue to enhance its Measure D public awareness campaign via public notices, direct mailers, door hangars, quarterly newsletters, the City web site, construction signage, and other appropriate measures as required.

Recommendation 2: Provide additional detail in the annual programs of projects for Goleta, Santa Barbara and Santa Maria to make their plans clear and to provide a basis for the annual audits.

The City of Goleta agrees with this recommendation. As stated in Finding 4 above, the City of Goleta will provide additional detail in its annual program of projects for Measure D expenditures programmed for pavement rehabilitation and will work with SBCAG to standardize this information.

The City of Goleta would like to thank you and the Grand Jury for providing a well-researched report on Measure D and for the opportunity to comment on the report's findings and recommendations. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (805)961-7500.

Sincerely,

Steve Wagner
Community Services Director

C: Mayor and City Council
Daniel Singer, City Manager