January 10, 2017

Board of Supervisors
County of Marin
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, California 94903

SUBJECT:  PUBLIC HEARING: ADOPT ATTACHED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN ELECTION TO INCREASE A SPECIAL TAX FOR MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS OF LANDSCAPED MEDIANS IN COUNTY SERVICE AREA #16—GREENBRAE

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Open public hearing regarding calling an election to increase a special tax in County Service Area #16—Greenbrae.
2. Adopt Resolution calling for an election to increase a special tax for maintenance and improvements of landscaped medians in County Service Area #16—Greenbrae.

SUMMARY:

County Service Area #16 (CSA 16) was established years ago within a portion of Larkspur and in unincorporated territory of the County of Marin known as Greenbrae. CSA 16 currently generates approximately $270,000 annually in ad valorem and special property tax revenue to cover operating expenses for maintenance and improvements of approximately three miles of landscaped medians, including two small parks.

In 2016, the CSA 16 Advisory Board, appointed by your board, established an ad hoc committee to review financial information and determine financial needs for continued landscape maintenance and improvements within CSA 16. Based on the information reviewed, the ad hoc committee identified that the current annual revenue was insufficient to properly maintain and improve the aging medians. The Greenbrae Property Owners Association (GPOA) solicited the opinion of Greenbrae residents about increasing the current $150 per year special tax for landscape maintenance on its website. Responses received indicated there was support for an increase, although views varied on the dollar amount. On November 30, 2016, the ad hoc committee reported to the CSA 16 Advisory Board that the current annual revenue was insufficient to properly maintain and improve landscaped areas in Greenbrae, and recommended an annual increase of $150 per improved parcel. The CSA 16 advisory board unanimously approved a motion to recommend to your...
Board that you call for an election within CSA 16 to consider increasing the existing special tax from $150 per year to $300 per year. If approved, this new tax would generate approximately $181,000 per year.

With your Boards approval, the County will proceed with a mail ballot election on May 2, 2017, asking voters whether they support or oppose increasing the special tax from $150 per year per improved parcel to $300 per year per improved parcel for maintenance and improvements of landscaped medians and two small parks within Greenbrae. The ballot measure will require two-thirds voter approval.

FISCAL IMPACT:

If your Board approves calling for an election, CSA 16 will incur costs for the required election, estimated at $19,000. The current FY16-17 CSA 16 budget has sufficient funding to cover these costs.

REVIEWED BY:

[ ] Dept. of Finance [ ] N/A
[ X ] County Counsel [ ] N/A
[ ] Human Resources [ X ] N/A

Principal Landscape Architect Stephen Petterle is the principal author of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Chamberlain
Acting Assistant Director

CC/SP/kbl