July 6, 2021

Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE EXISTING PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND FARMLAND ONE-QUARTER CENT TRANSACTIONS AND USE TAX KNOWN AS PARKS-MEASURE A, AND SET PUBLIC MERIT HEARING

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION:
1. Approve introduction of proposed ordinance.
2. Set a public merit hearing for July 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. to consider adoption of the proposed ordinance.

SUMMARY:
Measure A (Ordinance 3586) currently funds the county and its city, town, agriculture, and non-profit partners to care for Marin’s parks, open spaces, and farmland, and addresses some of the highest priorities of Marin County residents including fire fuel reduction, access to well-maintained parks and trails, climate resilience, recreation, and educational programming. The existing Measure A tax expires March 31, 2022.

On June 22, 2021 your Board received a presentation from Godbe Research detailing public support for a potential extension of Measure A in 2021, for an additional nine years. Your board then called for an introduction of a proposed ordinance to extend the existing one-quarter cent parks, open space, and farmland transactions and use tax.

Staff requests that your board set a public merit hearing to consider adoption of the proposed ordinance on July 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. (or as soon thereafter that the matter may be considered). At a future date your board will be asked to adopt a resolution to submit the ordinance to Marin County voters to be consolidated with Governor’s recall election, if feasible, when a specific election date is announced by the State Lieutenant Governor.

Any substantive changes to the proposed ordinance and expenditure plan requested during today’s meeting will require the ordinance to be introduced again at a future meeting.
FISCAL IMPACT:

We estimate, should the election date be called and consolidated with the Governor’s recall election, that local costs for voters to consider the extended Measure would total approximately $80,000 to $100,000. In the event of a consolidated election, this cost would be paid from the County’s general fund and, if successful, would be reimbursed from the extended Measure A revenues. If the measure is ultimately approved by the voters it is projected to continue approximately $14 million in annual funding for Marin County’s parks, open spaces, and farmland for an additional nine years. Renewal of the existing tax would also allow the County to continue to fund fire fuel reduction, parks and trails maintenance, climate resilience efforts, and recreation and educational programming.

Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions or concerns.

REVIEWED BY:

☒ County Administrator    ☐ N/A
☐ Department of Finance    ☐ N/A
☒ County Counsel    ☐ N/A
☐ Human Resources    ☐ N/A
☒ Elections Office    ☐ N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Chamberlain
Assistant Director
Marin County Parks