

**TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO**

Staff Report

May 7, 2014

For the meeting of May 13, 2014

TO: Town Council

FROM: David P. Donery, Community Services Director

SUBJECT: "Measure A" Parks Tax Allocation – 2014-15 FY

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive report on options for the 2014/15 Work Plan for the Town's allotment of Measure A funds and provide direction to staff.

**BACKGROUND**

On November 6, 2012, Marin County voters approved the Marin Parks, Open Space, and Farmland Preservation Transactions and Use Tax Ordinance ("MEASURE A"). MEASURE A levies a one-quarter percent transactions and use tax in Marin County and is estimated to generate approximately \$10,000,000 per year for the ten-year term of the measure.

In November of 2013, the Town Council voted to allocate the 2013/14 Measure A funds, in the amount of \$35,897, towards the purchase of the Sky Ranch property in Fairfax and San Anselmo to be used as open space lands.

**DISCUSSION**

At the Town Council meeting held on November 12, 2013, Council directed staff to engage both the Open Space Committee and the Parks and Recreation Commission in the creation of Measure A recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year. During the spring of 2014, the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Open Space Committee discussed options for the 2014/15 allotment, which is predicted to be in the amount of \$74,215.95, and prepared recommendations for consideration by the Town Council.

**ANALYSIS**

Staff has received the following recommendations for use of the Town's FY 2014/15 Measure A allocation:

Open Space Committee Recommendations

At their March meeting, the Open Space Committee discussed potential uses of the Town's 2014/15 Measure A funds. The Committee agreed on the following recommendations:

- 1) Allocate funding to Red Hill and Sunny Hills Trails projects.
- 2) Provide additional funding towards the Sky Ranch acquisition.
- 3) Allocate annual funding for fire hazard reduction and restoration on Town owned parks and open space.
- 4) Allocate an annual allotment of the Measure A funds towards the San Anselmo Open Space Fund.

#### Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendations

At their March and April meetings, the Parks and Recreation Commission discussed potential uses of the Measure A funding. Consideration was given to the installation of a restroom at Robson Park and to making improvements at Creek Park, both of which were among the recommendations for the previous year's Measure A allocation.

At the April meeting, staff asked the Parks & Recreation Commission consider recommending that the Measure A funding be allocated towards a Memorial Park renovation project. Staff stated that the park is in dire need of a significant amount of repair including a major field renovation with new drainage, irrigation and turf. Staff also noted that two of the current tennis courts need major repairs or replacement and that the Millennium Playground was nearing the end of its useful life.

#### Detention Basin

Staff noted that whether or not the Memorial Park Detention Basin project moves forward, that the major repairs at the park would need to be addressed in the near future. In addition, staff stated that if the detention basin project was approved, the Town would be required to provide a portion of the funding for the recreational improvements component of the project.

#### Funding for Parks

Staff noted that outside funding, particularly funding dedicated to parks, is difficult to find. Staff stated that to make any significant contribution towards a large project, that a recommendation of allocating subsequent Measure A annual allocations towards this project would be advised.

#### Options:

Staff proposes the following recommendations for use of the 2014/15 Measure A funds:

- 1) That the Town Council accept the Parks & Recreation Commission's recommendation of committing 100% of the 2014/15 Measure A allocation towards the Memorial Park Renovation Project, with the advisement that Council seriously consider alternate sources to fund the Robson bathroom and Creek Park improvements.
- 2) That the Town allocate 10% of the annual Measure A funding to the San Anselmo Open Space Fund, and the remaining 90% be allocated as described in Recommendation #1.

Respectfully submitted,



David P. Donery  
Community Services Director