



NEWS RELEASE

March 14, 2014

Measure U2012 Citizens Oversight Committee Issues First Annual Report

On Tuesday, March 18, 2014, the Measure U2012 Citizens' Oversight Committee (Committee) will be making a presentation to the Santa Maria City Council as part of its Annual Report on the use of Measure U2012 tax proceeds. This will be the first Annual Report the Committee has provided the City Council on Measure U-related activities.

By way of background, on June 5, 2012, the electors of the City of Santa Maria approved Measure U2012, an additional one-quarter cent transactions and use tax. The general purpose tax became operational October 1, 2012 and the first tax proceeds were received in late-December 2012.

On September 4, 2012, the City Council established a five (5) member Measure U2012 Citizens' Oversight Committee (Committee) to function as an advisory committee to the City Council, ensuring the oversight of the revenue generated by, and expenses made in relation to Measure U2012 are consistent with the City Council's intended use.

On January 27, 2014 the Committee met and reviewed the Measure U2012 audited financial statements as submitted by the City's auditor, Moss, Levy & Hartzheim, for the period ending June 30, 2013. After reviewing the audited financial statements, the Committee concluded that the Measure U2012 revenues received and expenses made were consistent with the intent as set forth by the City Council.

Committee Chair Trent Benedetti commented that "Measure U is a valuable source of income for the City and its ability to help provide much needed public safety-related services to the community is a blessing." Chair Benedetti also commented that "the role of the Committee provides an assurance to the voters that the tax proceeds are being used as designed – for essential city services."

The one quarter-cent transactions and use tax is a nine-year general purpose tax, and is due to sunset on December 31, 2021.

The Committee's Annual Report can be found on the City's website at <http://www.cityofsantamaria.org/40138.shtml>.

Questions may be directed to the City Manager's Office, 925-0951 ext. 372.

Department: City Manager's Office
Contact Person: Mark van de Kamp, Management Analyst II
Telephone Number: (805) 925-0951 ext. 372
E-mail Address: mvandekamp@cityofsantamaria.org