

SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

For the Agenda of: September 23, 2004

To: Board of Directors

From: Larry Greene
Air Pollution Control Officer

Subject: Resolution Supporting Renewal of the Measure A Sales Tax

Recommendations Staff recommends that the Board:

1. Approve the attached resolution supporting the renewal of the Measure A sales tax for 2009-2039 and authorize the Chair to sign the resolution on behalf of the Board of Directors.
 2. Direct the Clerk of the Board to forward a copy of the resolution to the Sacramento Transportation Authority.
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Background

The Measure A sales tax was initially approved by voters in 1988. Measure A is a one-half percent tax on the sale of goods in Sacramento County, including its incorporated cities. As state transportation funding has continued to decline over the last decade or more, Measure A has become a critical transportation funding source, particularly for transit operations and road maintenance. The SMAQMD receives 1.5% of the Measure A revenue, which is dedicated to mitigating transportation-related emissions within Sacramento County. The current Measure A is set to expire in 2008.

Uses

Measure A revenues comprise approximately 10% of the SMAQMD's annual budget. Historically, these funds have been used to fund:

- heavy-duty diesel engine replacements
- purchase of County refuse trucks and school buses
- match for state & federal transportation grants & programs
- alternatively-fueled Regional Transit buses
- alternative fuel infrastructure
- Spare The Air
- American River Bike Trail maintenance
- Cleaner Air Partnership
- Air Quality & Transportation Collaborative
- air quality planning and monitoring

Additional emission reductions result from other Measure A-funded projects to improve transit, bicycle and pedestrian modes of travel.

Need

The SMAQMD remains part of the Sacramento Federal Nonattainment Area (SFNA), which is classified as a “severe” area for the federal one-hour ozone standard. Assuming the new federal eight-hour ozone standard replaces the one-hour standard in June 2005, the SFNA will become a “serious” federal nonattainment area. However, the new eight-hour standard will be even more difficult to attain than the old one-hour standard. Since approximately 70% of the SFNA’s pollution comes from mobile sources, additional emission reductions from these sources will be critical in achieving the new-eight-hour standard.

Future funding

On November 2, 2004, Sacramento County citizens will vote whether to renew Measure A. If at least two-thirds of voters approve the measure, renewal of Measure A will continue to provide the SMAQMD with 1.5% of the one-half percent sales tax revenue. These revenues will continue to be directed to reduce transportation-related emissions, including:

- air quality monitoring and public information
- accelerated replacement of dirty diesel engines
- replacement of gasoline engine catalysts
- installation of diesel engine catalysts
- other proven emission-reducing strategies

As always, the 1.5% of revenues will continue to fund the most cost-effective, innovative and permanent emission reduction strategies available.

A.Q. impacts

Opponents of the Measure A renewal note that some of the projects in the ballot measure individually may be detrimental to air quality. Staff is aware of this potential. Our recommended support of Measure A renewal does not imply support for individual projects. We will consider these projects as part of our review process, and will recommend disapproval or will recommend mitigation measures to minimize both the construction and operational aspects of such projects, as appropriate. The extension of Measure will provide much needed funding for transit operations, the American River Bikeway and other bicycle and pedestrian improvements, as well as incentives for smart growth strategies, including transit oriented development.

Attachments

The following attachments accompany this letter:

- A resolution supporting renewal of the Measure A sales tax is attached.
 - A copy of the Sacramento Transportation Authority's Ordinance No. STA 04-01, Measure A Renewal.
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Respectfully submitted,

Larry Greene
Air Pollution Control Officer

Approved as to Form:

Kathrine Pittard
District Counsel

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RENEWAL OF THE
MEASURE A SALES TAX FOR 2009-2039**

WHEREAS, the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (“SMAQMD”) currently receives 1.5 percent of the one-half percent sales tax authorized by the passage of Measure A; and

WHEREAS, the SMAQMD’s Measure A allocation is used for mitigation of motor vehicle emissions or evaluation of mitigation measures; and

WHEREAS, SMAQMD is part of the Sacramento Federal Nonattainment Area for ozone; and

WHEREAS, increased ozone levels are associated with:

- slower growth of children’s lungs
- increase incidence and severity of asthma
- increased school absences due to respiratory problems
- permanent damage to lung tissue; and

WHEREAS, poor air quality makes it more difficult to attract, retain and expand desired businesses in our community; and

WHEREAS, transportation-related sources of air pollution create approximately 70% of the region’s ozone precursors; and

WHEREAS, Measure A revenue is critical to implementing cost-effective strategies to reduce transportation-related emissions; and

WHEREAS, the current Measure A sales tax measure, approved by voters in 1988, is set to expire in 2008; and

WHEREAS, renewal of Measure A will continue to provide emission reductions for the region and improve alternative modes of travel, including transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District hereby supports the renewal of the Measure A sales tax initiative on the November 2, 2004 ballot to provide funding to implement proven emission reducing strategies for the citizens of Sacramento County.

ON A MOTION by Director _____, seconded by Director _____, the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, State of California the twenty-third day of September, 2004, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Directors

NOES: Directors

ABSENT: Directors

ABSTAIN: Directors

Chairperson of the Board of Directors
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality
Management District

(SEAL)

ATTEST: _____
Clerk of the Board

Arenewal