

# County of Santa Clara

Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

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**DATE:** August 17, 2021

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Tiffany Lennear, Assistant Clerk of the Board

**SUBJECT:** Dissolution of the Measure B Citizen's Watchdog Committee (1996)

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*Tiffany Lennear*  
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This memorandum provides clarifying information about the dissolution of the Measure B Citizen's Watchdog Committee (1996). The work of the committee was closed out as part of a fiscal clean-up entry on the September 11, 2018 Board of Supervisors agenda. However, the dissolution of the committee may not have been clearly communicated to all interested parties.

## BACKGROUND

Measure B was passed by the voters of the County in 1996 and authorized the collection of a 1/2 cent sales tax from April 1, 1997 through March 30, 2006, to fund transportation improvement projects. Pursuant to the ballot measure, the Citizen's Watchdog Committee (CWC) was established.

The duties of the CWC were to review all reports on at least an annual basis to inform Santa Clara County residents how the funds were being spent. The Committee also contracted with an Independent Auditor on an annual basis to ensure tax dollars were being spent wisely. The CWC published the results of the independent audits in local newspapers. The Committee last met on February 28, 2018.

## DISSOLUTION PROCESS

On July 30, 2018, it was determined by the Office of the County Counsel and Administration that the CWC could be administratively dissolved. The committee was formally closed out as part of a fiscal clean-up entry on the September 11, 2018 Board of Supervisors agenda (Item No. 65).

The reasons for the dissolution were as follows:

- During the annual Fiscal Year-End Process (July 2018), Administration closed out the remaining Measure B funds.
- Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) agreed to hold responsibility for the perpetual Butterfly Habitat program (roughly \$76,000).
- The County had \$0 remaining in the Measure B Fund.

- VTA informed Administration that it would no longer generate nor send invoice advices.
- The Measure B auditor audited the closeout process to ensure best accounting practices.
- There was no longer any fiduciary responsibility for the CWC to exert as there were no longer any proceeds of the tax being collected or expended by the County, and therefore, no more audits for the CWC to review and approve.

On September 28, 2018, committee members were sent a letter explaining this process to them and thanking them for their service.

## **CONCLUSION**

Although the fiscal action required by the Board of Supervisors to close out the activities of the CWC was taken on September 11, 2018, that transmittal did not fully explain that the action would lead to the formal dissolution of the committee. Due to a miscommunication between departments, the CWC has continued to be listed as an active commission by the Clerk of the Board, appearing on its commissioner vacancy reports and the State-mandated Maddy Report.

The CWC has indeed been dissolved. The Office of the Clerk of the Board will update its records to ensure that the CWC will no longer be listed as an active commission going forward.

cc: Chief Board Aides  
Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive  
Miguel Márquez, Chief Operating Officer  
James R. Williams, County Counsel