



CITY OF SAN MATEO

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Agenda Report

Agenda Number: 27

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TO: City Council
FROM: Drew Corbett, City Manager
PREPARED BY: Public Works Department
MEETING DATE: March 21, 2022

SUBJECT:
Stormwater Funding – Survey Findings

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an update on the Stormwater Funding Survey findings and staff recommendations for implementation of a Stormwater Fee; and provide direction and related input.

BACKGROUND:

Managing the City's stormwater system consists of a wide range of efforts including the operation and maintenance (O&M) of the Marina Lagoon and other creeks, storm drains, and pump stations, as well as the planning and implementation of capital improvement projects, trash management activities, and regulatory compliance with the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit. The overall funding needs to effectively manage the City's stormwater system are greater than what is currently available from the General Fund.

At the February 2021 Sustainability and Infrastructure Commission (SIC) meeting, staff presented the draft Stormwater Funding Analysis Report. The Stormwater Funding Analysis Report, along with feedback from the SIC, were presented to the City Council during the May 17, 2021 study session. Council directed staff to proceed to the next steps towards implementing a potential stormwater fee. On August 16, 2021, City Council approved a contract amendment with the consultant, SCI Consulting Group, that included tasks for a public opinion survey, development of a Fee Report, public outreach, and Proposition 218 ballot process. The Stormwater Survey was completed in November 2021 and presented to the SIC March 9, 2022. This report presents a review of stormwater activities, Stormwater Funding Analysis, Stormwater Survey results, and takeaways from the SIC.

Overview of Storm System Activities:

Routine operation and maintenance activities for storm sewers includes cleaning and repairs of curbs, inlets, catch basins, lateral and main lines, outfalls, and nine stormwater pump stations. The City has four main creeks that convey water towards the bay and/or the Marina Lagoon: San Mateo Creek, Leslie Creek, Borel Creek, and Laurel Creek. Creek maintenance includes routine removal of nuisance vegetation, bank stabilization, outfall maintenance, and other related activities. Storm system capital improvement projects include those from the 2018 Marina Lagoon Dredging Assessment, the Trash Load Reduction Plan, a Storm Drain Condition Analysis, a Storm Drain Master Plan update, creek maintenance permitting efforts, and several other projects.

Marina Lagoon is an amenity for the entire City and beyond. Managing the lagoon as a flood control basin as its primary purpose includes maintaining operating levels, water exchange rates, the pump station, and other infrastructure. Management also includes removal of nuisance aquatic plant control, water quality protection, wildlife management, permit compliance, and regulation of encroachments such as private docks, beaches, banks, and dredging.

Stormwater Funding Analysis and Survey:

The overall funding needs to effectively manage the City's stormwater system are greater than what is currently available from the General Fund, which is approximately \$3 million annually for general stormwater program operations and maintenance. The financial analysis completed in 2021 identified the following additional needs and bring the total stormwater needs to \$8.4M annually:

- \$625,000 for additional O&M;
- \$1.9 million for Marina Lagoon dredging (annualized life-cycle costs derived from estimated dredging costs of as much as \$80 million); and
- \$2.9 million for other capital projects (\$68 million amortized over 30 years).

The first step was conducting a public opinion survey on stormwater fees, which has been completed. The surveys were conducted by mail to mimic the balloting process. Surveys were sent to property owners who were targeted through a stratified random selection process. The survey tested rates and issues for (1) a city-wide stormwater fee for all services included in the Stormwater Funding Analysis Report and (2) a city-wide benefit assessment focused solely on Marina Lagoon improvements such as dredging. This resulted in two separate, yet simultaneous surveys.

For the city-wide stormwater fee, the Stormwater Funding Analysis Report determined annual fees ranging from \$120 to \$192 and those two rates were tested in the survey. For the Marina Lagoon survey, the Stormwater Funding Analysis Report identified annual assessment rates of \$10 for most of the City and \$50 or \$150 for properties within walking distance or fronting the Marina Lagoon, respectively. This rate structure was predicted to only raise approximately \$500,000 annually toward a total need of \$1.9 million. Therefore, a second, larger rate range of \$23 to \$350 per year was also tested, although estimated revenues of \$1.2 million would still be less than the \$1.9 million needed annually.

The surveys were accompanied by supplemental information and also included questions about projects and issues that might affect how a voter would view a ballot initiative. Respondents were asked whether a project or issue would cause them to change their support of the initiative. The surveys and information were provided in both English and Spanish and can be referenced in Attachment 1.

Survey Results

A total of 10,000 surveys were mailed in November 2021 (5,000 each for Stormwater and the Marina Lagoon), and 1,550 were returned in time to be included in the results. The return rate of 15.5% is typical for mailed surveys and could be considered better than average considering it was the lead-up time for the holidays.

The results showed neutral support for the Stormwater fee and marginal support for the Marina Lagoon assessment. The Stormwater Fee had 49.9% support at the \$120/year level, and 46.8% support at the \$192/year level. The Marina Lagoon assessment had 54.6% support at the \$10/year level, and 51.6% support at the \$23/year level. Either type of funding initiative would require a simple 50% majority. The margins of error on these results were 3.4% and 3.6%, respectively.

Respondents were more likely to support a city-wide Stormwater Fee that 1) protects the City from local street and property flooding by properly maintaining and operating its aging storm drainage infrastructure, 2) removes trash and pollution from San Francisco Bay and local creeks, and 3) has dedicated funds for stormwater and could not be taken away by the State, County, or even the City Council.

Conversely, respondents were less likely to support a city-wide Stormwater Fee that would specifically fund Marina Lagoon issues such as 1) dredging and other stormwater improvements 2) preventing unwanted vegetation and other pollutants, and 3) as a recreational amenity and flood control facility.

The most supported projects and issues related to the Marina Lagoon Assessment survey included 1) removing trash and pollution to San Francisco Bay and local creeks 2) providing flood control capacity to protect streets and properties from local flooding, 3) ensuring safe, clean, healthy water in creeks and San Francisco Bay for future generations, and 4) dedicated funds for stormwater that could not be taken away by the State, County, or even the City Council. Respondents

were less likely to support a Marina Lagoon Assessment that would only pay for some of the dredging and may not be enough to fully fund Lagoon dredging, likely requiring a separate stormwater fee.

Analysis

While the support levels for the Marina Lagoon Assessment were slightly greater than for a Stormwater Fee, the lower revenue potential from the assessment combined with the strong negative argument of insufficient funding to complete identified improvements suggested that a Marina Lagoon-centric assessment would not be worth pursuing at this time.

The Stormwater Fee results are slightly less than 50% at the \$120/year rate. The consultant typically recommends moving forward on an initiative only when the support level minus the margin of error is at least 50%, which was not met. However, a lesser rate of under \$100/year, or approximately \$8/month may very well have enough support to pass. The projects and issues that resonate with the community were well rounded (infrastructure, environmental and fiscal prudence), which forms a solid basis for an outreach and education program.

Summary of Input from Sustainability and Infrastructure Commission

Staff presented the survey results to the SIC on March 9, 2022. The SIC were consistently supportive of proceeding with implementation of a robust public outreach and education program, developing a fee report, and pursuing the Stormwater Fee at a level less than \$100/year. The SIC also provided feedback on future outreach strategies. Other input included recommendations to explore partnerships with Foster City for continued funding of Marina Lagoon, and to consider enhancing pedestrian walkways surrounding the lagoon.

Recommendations

Staff is recommending the following for consideration and is requesting Council feedback and direction on proceeding with implementation.

- Conducting a robust public outreach and education program that would take place over a six-to-nine month period;
- Developing a Fee Report that illustrates the services and improvements that would be funded at \$8/month;
- Pursuing the Stormwater Fee at a level less than \$100/year (approximately \$8/month); and
- Beginning the Proposition 218 ballot process after the outreach and education program concludes.

The timing for commencing the outreach and education program will depend on whether Council provides direction to put a general tax measure on the ballot in 2022, which is also a consideration at the March 21st Council meeting. Should Council opt to pursue a general tax measure, which would begin with polling a sampling of voters to gauge support levels, staff recommends holding off on starting the outreach and education program until the conclusion of that process. Depending on the results of the stormwater fee process, staff can further consider a Marina Lagoon Assessment in the future.

BUDGET IMPACT:

There is no budget impact due to the presentation of this information item.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

This informational update is not a project subject to CEQA, because it is an organizational or administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5).)

NOTICE PROVIDED

All meeting noticing requirements were met.

ATTACHMENTS

Att 1 – Stormwater Survey Items

STAFF CONTACT

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CITY OF SAN MATEO

Clean Creeks and Flood Protection Initiative

Information Fact Sheet

Why Am I Receiving This Survey?

The City of San Mateo is considering proposing a funding measure to help pay for the critical needs in managing the stormwater facilities, and seeks input from local property owners on your priorities for stormwater activities.

Please read the following information, then complete the enclosed survey and return it in the postage paid envelope as soon as possible. Your answers will help guide our efforts towards protecting the City and its residents from local flooding and protecting water quality.

Long-Term Financial Sustainability

The City's Stormwater Program is funded largely from the City's General Fund where it must compete with other community priorities such as public safety, roads, and parks. Due to this, and the limited nature of the General Fund, the Stormwater Program has been operating at a minimum level of service with few investments in critical projects aimed at reducing flood risks and performing proactive maintenance on Marina Lagoon.

Current operations are estimated at \$3.0 million per year. However, in order to sustainably fund the Stormwater Program and meet adequate levels of service an additional \$5.4 million is needed per year. This includes an additional \$0.6 million for additional operations and maintenance, \$1.9 million for Marina Lagoon dredging, and \$2.9 million for other important capital projects and programs.

To fund the Stormwater Program in sustainable manner, a separate, dedicated revenue stream is recommended that would no longer compete with other General Fund priorities and would be shared by property owners in a fairer way. It is estimated a monthly fee between \$10 and \$16 for the average home would fund this program.

Investing in Local Infrastructure

The City of San Mateo operates and maintains various stormwater facilities and performs activities necessary to prevent flooding, preserve surface water quality, enhance recreational activities, and ensure compliance with all legal requirements. Local facilities include: Marina Lagoon and other creeks and channels; pipes and pumping systems; and trash capture devices. Activities include: operations and maintenance; capital improvements and master planning; environmental compliance; and system management and administration.

Like most cities across the Nation, San Mateo viewed their storm drainage system as a simple conveyance for rain runoff. But over the past 30 years, environmental health and safety requirements have brought stormwater programs on par with other municipal utilities like water and sewer systems. And like those utilities, a dedicated and sustainable revenue stream is the most fair and reliable way to fund the City's investment into this critical infrastructure.

Funds from this local funding measure would be used to continue to **protect** our streets from local flooding, **ensure** clean water for enjoyment, **restore** and **maintain** Marina Lagoon, and protect this critical City feature for current and future generations.



Water levels in the south end of the Lagoon have decreased dramatically due to silt deposits, resulting in loss of navigable water depth for boating, loss of wildlife habitat, and decreased stormwater retention capacity greatly reducing the City's flood control capacity.

Marina Lagoon - Gem of the City

Among the stormwater management activities in the City of San Mateo, one has emerged as paramount: stewardship of Marina Lagoon. As the receiving body of most of the City's stormwater flows, the Lagoon has an important drainage role. In addition, it plays a large role as a recreational amenity for swimming, boating, and other water activities. However, both the drainage and recreational aspects are being degraded due to the accumulation of silt and sediment that cause navigation and health problems. An analysis that showed that dredging Marina Lagoon to its original state would cost as much as \$85 million – more than all other stormwater capital needs combined. If left unattended, Marina Lagoon would continue to degrade and cease to be a recreational amenity - the Gem of the City.



Routine Operations

The City's stormwater system is comprised of 130 miles of storm drains, 20 miles of open creeks and drainage channels, 1 flood control lagoon, 9 pumping stations, and a 3 mile bayfront levee. Routine operation and maintenance activities include cleaning and repairs of curbs, inlets, catch basins, lateral and main lines, and outfalls. Various factors, such as clogged catch basins or pipes that do not adequately convey standard rainwater flow, cause flooding in various areas throughout the City, making it difficult for pedestrians, bicycles, motorcycles, cars, and emergency vehicles to navigate.

Other System Deficiencies

City engineers and maintenance crews have effectively maintained our stormwater system on a limited budget for many years. However, much of the system is no over 50 years old and reaching the end of its design life. The areas where improvements need to be made include segments of 16th Avenue, 9th Avenue, Laurel Creek, Coyote Point, Detroit Drive as well as 13 high priority projects are aimed at reducing flooding throughout the City.

Stormwater Improvement Plan

Protecting Property



Sustainable Stormdrains



Protecting the Bay





CIUDAD DE SAN MATEO

Iniciativa de arroyos limpios y protección contra inundaciones

Ficha informativa

¿Por qué recibo esta encuesta?

La ciudad de San Mateo está considerando proponer una medida de financiación para ayudar a pagar las necesidades fundamentales en el control de las instalaciones de desagüe pluvial, y busca conocer la opinión de los propietarios locales sobre las prioridades en actividades de este servicio.

Lea la siguiente información, complete la encuesta adjunta y envíela dentro de un sobre con franqueo pago lo antes posible. Sus respuestas nos ayudarán a enfocar los esfuerzos hacia la conservación de la calidad del agua y la protección de la ciudad y sus residentes contra las inundaciones locales.

Sustentabilidad financiera a largo plazo El Programa de desagüe pluvial de la ciudad (Stormwater Program) está financiado, en gran parte, por el Fondo general de la ciudad, donde debe competir con otras prioridades de la comunidad, como la seguridad, carreteras y parque públicos. Por lo tanto, y debido a la naturaleza limitada del fondo general, este programa ha operado a un nivel de servicio mínimo, con pocas inversiones en proyectos esenciales dirigidos a la reducción de riesgos por inundación y al mantenimiento proactivo de Marina Lagoon.

Se calcula que las operaciones actuales utilizan \$3 000 000 por año. Sin embargo, se necesita un adicional de \$5 400 000 por año para financiar el programa de manera sustentable y cumplir los niveles adecuados de servicio. Esto incluye un adicional de \$600 000 para operaciones y mantenimiento complementarios, \$1 900 000 para el dragado de Marina Lagoon y \$2 900 000 para otros proyectos de capital y programas importantes.

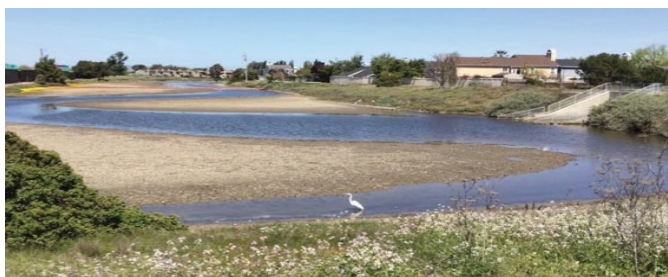
Para financiar el programa de desagüe pluvial de forma sustentable, se recomienda una fuente de ingresos independiente y específica que no compita con otras prioridades del fondo general y capte el interés de los propietarios de una manera más razonable. Se calcula que una cuota mensual de entre \$10 y \$16 por hogar promedio podría financiar el programa.

Inversión en infraestructura local

La ciudad de San Mateo opera y mantiene distintas instalaciones de desagüe pluvial y realiza acciones necesarias para evitar inundaciones, conservar la calidad del agua superficial, fomentar las actividades recreativas y asegurar el cumplimiento de todos los requisitos legales. Las instalaciones locales son: Marina Lagoon y otros arroyos y canales; tuberías y sistemas de bombeo; y dispositivos de recolección de basura. Las acciones que se llevan a cabo son: operaciones y mantenimiento; mejoras del capital y planificación principal; cumplimiento de las medidas ecológicas; y administración del sistema.

Como la mayoría de las ciudades del país, San Mateo consideraba al sistema de desagüe pluvial un simple medio de transporte para el escurrimiento del agua de lluvia. No obstante, durante los últimos 30 años, las necesidades de seguridad e higiene ambiental han puesto a los programas de aguas pluviales a la par de otros servicios municipales como los sistemas de agua corriente y alcantarillado. Al igual que estos servicios, la implementación de una fuente de ingresos específica y sustentable es la forma más justa y confiable de financiar la inversión de la ciudad en esta infraestructura fundamental.

Los fondos de esta medida de financiación se destinarían a continuar con la **protección** de nuestras calles contra las inundaciones, **garantizar** agua limpia para la recreación, **restaurar** y **mantener** Marina Lagoon y proteger este elemento esencial de la ciudad para las generaciones actuales y futuras.



Los niveles de agua en el extremo sur de Marina Lagoon se han reducido drásticamente debido a los depósitos de lodo, lo cual llevó a la pérdida de profundidad del agua de navegación, a la pérdida de hábitats de la fauna y a la reducción de la capacidad de retención de aguas pluviales, por lo que se redujo también la capacidad de control de las inundaciones de la ciudad.

Consulte el reverso para obtener más información

Marina Lagoon - La joya de la ciudad Entre las actividades de administración de las aguas pluviales en la ciudad de San Mateo, una de ellas cobró especial importancia: la administración de Marina Lagoon. La laguna tiene una importante función en el desagüe de la ciudad, ya que se trata del cuerpo receptor del caudal de la mayor parte de las aguas pluviales. Además, cumple un rol importante como servicio recreativo donde se puede realizar natación, navegación y otras actividades acuáticas. Sin embargo, tanto su función de drenaje como su función recreativa están deteriorándose debido a la acumulación de lodo y sedimento que causan problemas en la salud y la navegación. Según un estudio, dragar Marina Lagoon para recuperar su estado original costaría hasta \$85 000 000, más que todo el capital que se necesita para otros servicios de desagüe pluvial. Si no se atiende esta cuestión, la laguna continuará deteriorándose hasta dejar de ser un espacio recreativo, la joya de la ciudad.



Operaciones de rutina

El sistema de aguas pluviales de la ciudad se compone de 209 kilómetros de desagües pluviales, 32 kilómetros de arroyos y canales de desagüe abiertos, 1 laguna para el control de inundaciones, 9 estaciones de bombeo y un dique de 3 millas en la bahía. Las actividades rutinarias de operación y mantenimiento incluyen la limpieza y reparación de cunetas, tomas de entrada, sumideros, líneas principales y laterales y emisarios. Las inundaciones se generan en distintas zonas de la ciudad debido a varios factores, como sumideros tapados o tuberías que no cumplen con la capacidad de caudal de agua necesaria, lo que dificulta la circulación de peatones, bicicletas, motocicletas, automóviles y vehículos de emergencia.

Otras fallas del sistema

Los equipos de mantenimiento e ingenieros de la ciudad han logrado mantener nuestro sistema de desagüe pluvial de forma eficaz con un presupuesto escaso durante muchos años. No obstante, gran parte del sistema no tiene más de 50 años y ya está alcanzando el límite de vida útil. Las zonas donde se necesitan arreglos y mejoras son algunos tramos de la 16th Avenue, 9th Avenue, Laurel Creek y Coyote Point y Detroit Drive. Además, se cuenta con 13 proyectos de prioridad alta que apuntan a la reducción de las inundaciones en la ciudad.

Plan para mejorar el desagüe

Protección de la propiedad



Desagües pluviales sustentables



Protección de la bahía



CITY OF SAN MATEO OFFICIAL SURVEY

Clean Creeks & Flood Protection Initiative



This survey has been mailed to a random sample of residents and business owners in the City of San Mateo to gather information and input. This information will help the City make decisions about funding for future stormwater management activities. Please complete and return this survey as soon as possible. You may take the survey online or mail the completed survey below in the postage-prepaid return envelope provided. Please return it by November 26, 2021.

Survey Instructions:

- 1) Read each question listed below.
- 2) Fill in the circle for your response. Please use a pen and completely fill in the circle.
- 3) Detach the bottom portion of this sheet containing your answers.
- 4) Place the bottom portion of this sheet in the return envelope and mail (no postage needed).

SMSW

Detach Here Fill in Lower Portion, Detach at this Line, and Mail Back in Return Envelope Detach Here

To complete this survey online please do one of the following:

- visit www.inputlocal.com, enter: SURVEY NAME "SANMATEOSW", SURVEY CODE _____, or
- scan the QR CODE on the right with your phone and follow the instructions.



ownerid

Residents and business owners within San Mateo may be asked to vote on a local ballot measure as follows. Please indicate your level of support.

1. In order to protect our streets and properties from local flooding, and ensure clean water for enjoyment of Marina Lagoon, San Francisco Bay and our local creeks and channels by:
 - Maintaining, cleaning, repairing, rehabilitating and operating our stormwater infrastructure;
 - Keeping trash and other pollutants from flowing into areas where it can interfere with recreation and harm habitat;
 - Restoring Marina Lagoon to its original boating depth and managing vegetation growth and other water quality issues.

SMSW

would you support a monthly fee on each property(ies) in the amount of _____?

Definitely YES

☐

Probably YES

☐

Probably NO

☐

Definitely NO

☐

Now, please read the following statements regarding the proposed Clean Creeks and Flood Protection Initiative ballot measure. For each statement, please indicate whether they make you more or less likely to support the measure:

	Much More Likely	Somewhat More Likely	No Impact	Somewhat Less Likely	Much Less Likely
2. This measure would help protect the City of San Mateo from local street and property flooding by properly maintaining and operating its aging storm drainage infrastructure.....	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. This measure would pay for dredging of Marina Lagoon as well as other stormwater improvements	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. This measure would pay for the maintenance of trash capture devices in storm drains which remove trash and pollution before they enter the Bay and our local creeks and channels	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. The City plans to address its drainage and water quality challenges in ways that are environmentally sustainable, including green infrastructure, to protect Marina Lagoon	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
6. This measure would be a critical first step in combating the effects of climate change such as sea level rise and more frequent and intense storms.....	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
7. This measure would fund high-priority capital projects designed to protect against local flooding and improve water quality.....	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
8. This measure would be fully dedicated to stormwater services, and cannot be used for any other reason by the City Council or taken away by county or state government	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
9. This measure would help ensure recreation such as swimming, boating, and other water activities would be safe from unwanted vegetation and other pollutants	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
10. This measure would also fund Marina Lagoon as a recreational amenity that also serves as a flood control facility.....	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
11. Creating a dedicated, sustainable funding source is the best way to ensure clean water and avoid local flooding.....	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

SMSW

Please use the space below to write any reasons why you support or oppose this proposed measure. Also, please describe which issues are most important to you:

ENCUESTA OFICIAL DE LA CIUDAD DE SAN MATEO

Iniciativa de arroyos limpios y protección contra inundaciones



Se envió por correo esta encuesta, a residentes y propietarios de negocios de la ciudad de San Mateo para obtener información y comentarios. Esta información ayudará a la ciudad a tomar decisiones sobre la financiación de las futuras actividades de administración de las aguas pluviales. Complete y envíe esta encuesta lo antes posible. Puede realizarla en línea o enviarla por correo en el sobre de respuesta pagado que recibió. Envíela antes del 26 de Noviembre de 2021.

Instrucciones para la encuesta:

- 1) Lea atentamente las preguntas enumeradas más abajo.
- 2) Marque el círculo con su respuesta. Utilice un bolígrafo y rellene todo el círculo.
- 3) Corte la parte inferior de esta hoja que contiene sus respuestas.
- 4) Coloque la parte que cortó dentro del sobre que enviará y llévelo al correo (no pague la estampilla).

Corte aquí _____ Complete la parte interior, corte en esta línea y envíela por correo en el sobre _____ Corte aquí

Elija una de las siguientes opciones para completar esta encuesta en línea:

- visit www.inputlocal.com, e ingrese: SURVEY NAME "SANMATEOSW", SURVEY CODE _____; o
- escanee el código QR de la derecha con su teléfono y siga las instrucciones.



ownerid

Se les puede pedir a los residentes y propietarios de negocios de San Mateo que voten en una medida electoral local de la siguiente manera. Indique su nivel de apoyo.

1. A fin de proteger nuestras calles y propiedades de las inundaciones locales, así como de garantizar agua limpia para disfrutar Marina Lagoon, la bahía de San Francisco y nuestros arroyos y canales locales mediante lo siguiente:
- mantenimiento, limpieza, reparación, rehabilitación y administración de nuestra infraestructura para aguas pluviales;
 - medidas para evitar que la basura y otros contaminantes fluyan hacia áreas donde puedan interferir con la recreación o causar daños en el hábitat;
 - recuperación de la profundidad de navegación original de la laguna y gestión del crecimiento de la vegetación y de otros problemas relacionados con la calidad del agua,

¿Colaboraría con una tarifa mensual por cada propiedad por el monto de _____?

Definitivamente SÍ Probablemente SÍ Probablemente NO Definitivamente NO



Lea las siguientes afirmaciones con respecto a la propuesta de ley sobre la iniciativa de arroyos limpios y protección contra inundaciones. En cada afirmación indique que tan probable es que apoye la propuesta:

	Más probable más probable	Un poco probable	No influye	Un poco probable	Menos probable
2. Esta medida ayudaría a proteger a la ciudad de San Mateo de inundaciones en sus calles y propiedades, ya que mantendría y administraría la infraestructura de alcantarillado pluvial de manera adecuada	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Esta medida ayudaría a pagar el dragado de Marina Lagoon y a hacer otras mejoras relacionadas con las aguas pluviales	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Esta medida cubriría los gastos de mantenimiento de los dispositivos de filtrado de basura en las alcantarillas pluviales, que eliminan la basura y los contaminantes antes de que ingresen a la bahía y a nuestros arroyos y canales locales	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. Para proteger Marina Lagoon, la ciudad abordará las dificultades del desagüe y la calidad del agua de manera sustentable para el medio ambiente, incluida la infraestructura ecológica.....	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
6. Esta medida sería un primer paso fundamental para combatir los efectos del cambio climático, como la elevación del nivel del mar y tormentas más frecuentes e intensas	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
7. Esta medida permitiría financiar proyectos de capital de alta prioridad diseñados para brindar protección contra las inundaciones y mejorar la calidad del agua	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
8. Esta propuesta se destinará completamente a los servicios de aguas pluviales. El concejo municipal no podrá utilizarla para ningún otro fin, ni el gobierno estatal ni del condado podrán eliminarla	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
9. Esta medida ayudaría a garantizar que las actividades recreativas, como la natación, la navegación y otras actividades acuáticas, estén resguardadas de la vegetación indeseada y otros contaminantes.....	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
10. Esta medida financiaría Marina Lagoon como establecimiento recreativo que también actúa como establecimiento de control de las inundaciones	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
11. Crear una fuente de financiación exclusiva y sustentable es la mejor manera de garantizar agua limpia y de evitar inundaciones locales	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Utilice el siguiente espacio para escribir cualquier razón que tenga para apoyar u oponerse a la propuesta. Además, puede explicar cualquier asunto que le parezca relevante:

Marina Lagoon Restoration Initiative



Why Am I Receiving This Survey?

All of us in San Mateo are dependent on our local storm drainage system to keep our streets, homes, and property safe from local flooding, primarily due to seasonal rain storms. However, among the stormwater management activities in the City of San Mateo, one has emerged as paramount: stewardship of Marina Lagoon. As the receiving body of most of the City's stormwater flows, Marina lagoon has an important drainage role and acts as a flood control basin, ultimately providing protection to properties and roadways from large winter storms.

In addition, Marina lagoon plays a large role as a community recreational amenity for scenic walks, swimming, boating, and other water activities. However, both the drainage and recreational aspects are being degraded due to the accumulation of silt and sediment coming from upstream sources. As a result, the City of San Mateo is considering proposing a funding measure to help pay for these critical infrastructure needs, and seeks input from local property owners on your priorities for restoration and maintenance of Marina Lagoon, and local flood protection. Please read the following information, and complete the enclosed survey. Your answers will help guide our efforts toward restoring and maintaining Marina Lagoon, and protecting the City and its residents.

Marina Lagoon as an Amenity and Infrastructure

Marina Lagoon serves a dual purpose as the City's primary flood control basin, while providing local recreational activities such as scenic strolls, beach activities, and boating. Marina Lagoon's function within the City's Stormwater infrastructure and as a recreational attraction comprises an inter-related system requiring significant resources to excel in its performance of both functions.



Marina Lagoon features nine miles of waterfront, and receives most of the City's stormwater runoff

Investing in Local Infrastructure

In recognition of the challenges facing Marina Lagoon, the City of San Mateo conducted an analysis in 2018 showing that a full dredging of Marina Lagoon to its original state, which has not been done since 1965, would cost as much as \$85 million – more than all other stormwater capital needs combined. Additionally, the analysis found overall stormwater funding needs are greater than what is currently available through the General Fund.

In response to this information, the City is currently exploring funding options to effectively manage both Marina Lagoon, and the City's overall stormwater system. The included survey questionnaire will help the City evaluate the community's priorities regarding investment in Marina Lagoon and protecting this



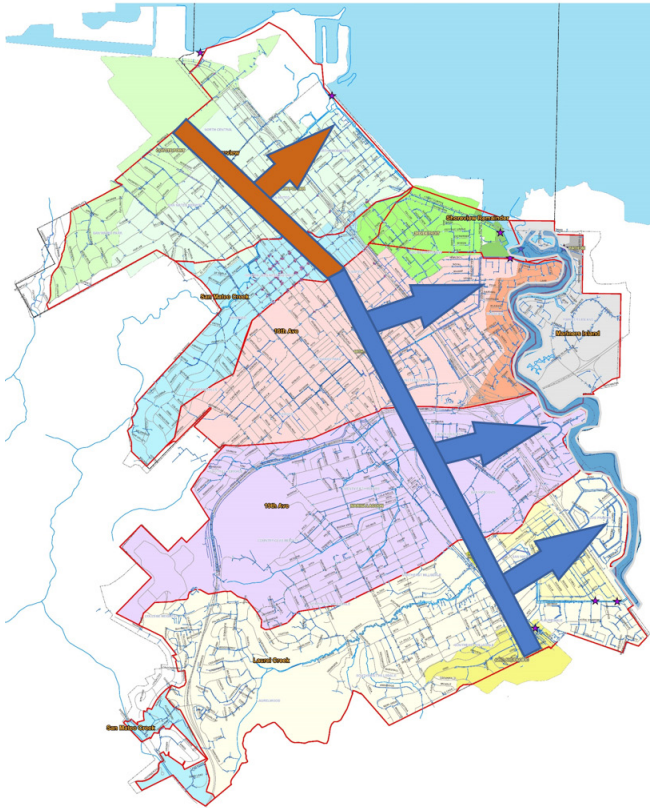
Beach-going is a popular activity at Marina Lagoon

Marina Lagoon Restoration Initiative



Information Fact Sheet

Challenges Facing Marina Lagoon



Marina Lagoon drains water from most of the City's creeks and pipes, providing critical stormwater retention for the City

Marina Lagoon receives water conveyed from three of the City's four main local creeks; Leslie Creek, Borel Creek, and Laurel Creek, consummating its role as a stormwater retention and flood control basin. Tidal gates at the southern and northern ends of Marina Lagoon act as an inlet and outlet. In 1964 when the last full dredging was completed, Marina Lagoon infrastructure provided a navigable body of water for recreational use, and a wildlife sanctuary for birds and animals.

However, 40 years have passed since the last partial dredging in 1981, and both the drainage and recreational aspects of Marina Lagoon are being degraded due to the accumulation of silt and sediment coming from upstream sources and the Bay, causing other environmental problems such as algae blooms, water quality, and limited navigable water depth for boats.

Long-Term Financial Sustainability

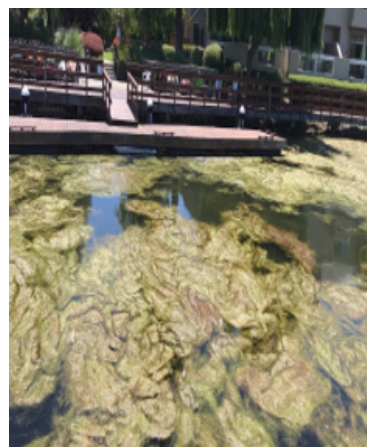
The City currently spends approximately \$500,000 annually for managing Marina Lagoon, including operations, maintenance, water quality and vegetation management; money that comes from the City's General Fund where it must compete with many other community services such as public safety, roads, and parks. But all this is a losing battle without removing the silt and sediment that has built up over the past five decades. The lack of a dedicated, sustainable funding source is resulting in degradation of Marina Lagoon as a recreational amenity and stormwater infrastructure facility.

A local funding measure would go a long way toward restoring Marina Lagoon, and protect this critical City feature for current and future generations.

What Will a Funding Measure Provide?

Funds from a local ballot measure would allow the City to restore and properly maintain Marina Lagoon. Following is a list of improvements to Marina Lagoon that additional funding could provide:

- Vegetation growth management
- Improved water quality due to dredging
- Silt excavation for proper tide gate functionality
- Increased stormwater retention capacity due to dredging
- Restoration of navigable water depth for boating and kayaking
- Restoration of bird and other wildlife habitat



Algae blooms are increasing due to higher temperatures associated with climate change

Water levels in the south end of Marina Lagoon have decreased dramatically due to silt deposits, resulting in loss of navigable water depth for boating, loss of wildlife habitat, and decreased stormwater retention capacity greatly reducing the City's flood control capacity.



Iniciativa de recuperación de Marina Lagoon



¿Por qué recibo esta encuesta?

Todas las personas de San Mateo dependemos de nuestro sistema de alcantarillado pluvial local para proteger nuestras calles, nuestros hogares y nuestras pertenencias de las inundaciones locales, principalmente debido a las tormentas de estación. Sin embargo, dentro de las actividades de administración de las aguas pluviales en la ciudad de San Mateo, una de ellas cobró especial importancia: la administración de Marina Lagoon. La laguna tiene una importante función en el desagüe de la ciudad, ya que se trata del cuerpo receptor del caudal de la mayor parte de las aguas pluviales y actúa como cuenca para controlar las inundaciones y, en última instancia, protege las propiedades y las carreteras de las grandes tormentas invernales.

Además, Marina Lagoon cumple un rol importante como servicio recreativo comunitario donde se pueden realizar pintorescas caminatas, natación, navegación y otras actividades acuáticas. Sin embargo, tanto su función de drenaje como su función recreativa están deteriorándose debido a la acumulación de lodo y sedimento que proviene de fuentes río arriba. Como consecuencia, la ciudad de San Mateo está pensando en proponer una medida de financiamiento para ayudar a pagar estas necesidades de infraestructura fundamentales y busca conocer la opinión de los propietarios locales sobre sus prioridades en cuanto a la recuperación y el mantenimiento de Marina Lagoon y a la protección local contra las inundaciones. Lea la siguiente información y complete la encuesta que se adjunta. Sus respuestas ayudarán a guiar nuestros esfuerzos para recuperar y mantener la laguna Marina y para proteger a la ciudad y sus residentes.

Marina Lagoon como establecimiento e infraestructura

Marina Lagoon cumple un doble fin, ya que es la principal cuenca para el control de las inundaciones de la ciudad y, al mismo tiempo, ofrece actividades recreativas locales, como caminatas pintorescas, actividades de playa y navegación. La función de Marina Lagoon dentro de la infraestructura pluvial de la ciudad y como atracción recreativa comprende un sistema interrelacionado que requiere de muchos recursos para poder cumplir con sus dos funciones de manera correcta.



Marina Lagoon tiene una orilla de nueve millas y recibe la mayor parte del agua de escorrentía de la ciudad

Inversión en infraestructura local

Tras reconocer las dificultades que atraviesa Marina Lagoon, la ciudad de San Mateo llevó a cabo un análisis en 2018, a partir del cual se demostró que dragar por completo la laguna para recuperar su estado original, lo cual no se ha hecho desde 1965, costaría \$85 millones, más que todas las demás necesidades de capital para aguas pluviales combinadas. Además, a partir del análisis se determinó que los fondos que se necesitan para invertir en las aguas pluviales son mayores que el monto que está disponible actualmente a través del fondo general.

Como respuesta a esta información, la ciudad está explorando opciones de financiamiento para administrar de manera eficaz tanto Marina Lagoon como el sistema general de aguas pluviales de la ciudad. La encuesta que incluimos ayudará a la ciudad a evaluar las prioridades de la comunidad en relación con las inversiones en Marina Lagoon y en su protección.



Ir a la playa es una actividad popular en Marina Lagoon.

Consulte el reverso para obtener más información

Iniciativa de recuperación de Marina Lagoon



Ficha informativa

Las dificultades que atraviesa Marina Lagoon



Marina Lagoon recibe el agua que drena de la mayoría de los riachuelos y las tuberías de la ciudad, por lo que constituye un sistema de retención de aguas pluviales fundamental para la ciudad.

Marina Lagoon recibe el agua proveniente de tres de los cuatro riachuelos principales de la ciudad (los riachuelos Leslie, Borel y Laurel), por lo que consume su función como cuenca de retención de aguas pluviales y de control de inundaciones. Las compuertas de marea en los extremos norte y sur de la laguna actúan como entrada y salida. En 1964, cuando se llevó a cabo el último dragado completo, la infraestructura de Marina Lagoon ofrecía un cuerpo de agua navegable para uso recreativo y un santuario de vida silvestre para aves y animales.

No obstante, ya han pasado 40 años desde su último dragado parcial en 1981, y tanto su función de drenaje como su función recreativa se están deteriorando debido a la acumulación de lodo y sedimento que proviene de fuentes río arriba y de la bahía, lo cual genera otros problemas ambientales, como la proliferación de algas, el deterioro de la calidad del agua y la limitación de la profundidad del agua para navegar.

Sustentabilidad financiera a largo plazo

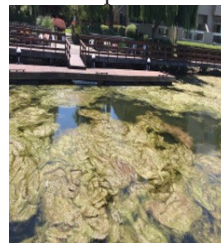
En la actualidad, la ciudad invierte aproximadamente \$500 000 al año en la administración de Marina Lagoon, lo cual incluye operaciones, mantenimiento y administración de la calidad del agua y la vegetación. Este dinero proviene del fondo general de la ciudad, donde debe competir con muchos otros servicios comunitarios, como la seguridad pública, las carreteras y los parques. Pero todo está destinado a fracasar si no se elimina el lodo y el sedimento que se acumuló en las últimas cinco décadas. La falta de una fuente de financiación exclusiva y sostenible está llevando al deterioro de la laguna como establecimiento recreativo y de infraestructura para las aguas pluviales.

Una medida de financiamiento local podría contribuir mucho a la recuperación de la laguna y a la protección de este atractivo fundamental de la ciudad para las generaciones actuales y futuras.

¿Qué garantizará una medida de financiamiento?

Los fondos provenientes de una medida electoral local le permitirían a la ciudad recuperar y mantener Marina Lagoon de manera adecuada. La siguiente es una lista de mejoras en la laguna que el financiamiento adicional podría ayudar a garantizar:

- Administración del crecimiento de la vegetación.
- Mejora de la calidad del agua gracias al dragado.
- Excavación del lodo para mejorar el funcionamiento de las compuertas de marea.
- Mayor capacidad de retención de las aguas pluviales gracias al dragado.
- Recuperación de la profundidad del agua para poder navegar en bote y hacer kayak.
- Recuperación del hábitat para aves y otros tipos de fauna.



La proliferación de algas ha aumentado debido a las altas temperaturas relacionadas con el cambio climático.

Los niveles de agua en el extremo sur de Marina Lagoon se han reducido drásticamente debido a los depósitos de lodo, lo cual llevó a la pérdida de profundidad del agua de navegación, a la pérdida de hábitats de la fauna y a la reducción de la capacidad de retención de aguas pluviales, por lo que se redujo también la capacidad de control de las inundaciones de la ciudad.



CITY OF SAN MATEO OFFICIAL SURVEY

Marina Lagoon Restoration Initiative



This survey has been mailed to a random sample of residents and business owners in the City of San Mateo to gather information and input. This information will help the City make decisions about funding for future Marina Lagoon restoration and maintenance services. Please complete and return this survey as soon as possible. You may take the survey online or mail the completed survey below in the postage-prepaid return envelope provided. Please return it by November 26, 2021.

Survey Instructions:

- 1) Read each question listed below.
- 2) Fill in the circle for your response. Please use a pen and completely fill in the circle.
- 3) Detach the bottom portion of this sheet containing your answers.
- 4) Place the bottom portion of this sheet in the return envelope and mail (no postage needed).

Mateo-nl

Detach Here

Fill in Lower Portion, Detach at this Line, and Mail Back in Return Envelope

Detach Here

To complete this survey online please do one of the following:

- visit www.inputlocal.com, enter: SURVEY NAME "MATEOML-1", SURVEY CODE _____, or
- scan the QR CODE on the right with your phone and follow the instructions.



Residents and business owners within San Mateo may be asked to vote on a local ballot measure as follows. Please indicate your level of support.

1. In order to continue to protect and invest in Marina Lagoon as a community amenity for scenic enjoyment, beach-going, boating, and other water activities for future generations by:
- Managing vegetation growth and other water quality issues; and
 - Increasing stormwater retention and flood control capacity by dredging silt and sediments; and
 - Restoring Marina Lagoon to a water depth that supports boating, recreation, and storm flows;
- would you support an annual assessment on each property(ies) in the amount of _____, collected on the property tax bill?

barcode

ownerid

Definitely YES

☐

Probably YES

☐

Probably NO

☐

Definitely NO

☐

Now, please read the following statements regarding the proposed Marina Lagoon Restoration Initiative ballot measure. For each statement, please indicate whether they make you more or less likely to support the measure:

	Much More Likely	Somewhat More Likely	No Impact	Somewhat Less Likely	Much Less Likely
2. This measure would pay for some of the dredging of Marina Lagoon to restore the channel to its original boating water depth.....	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. This measure would help fund the annual maintenance effort to keep Marina Lagoon clean and safe for boating, swimming, and other water activities.....	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. This measure would provide increased flood control capacity in Marina Lagoon, protecting our streets and properties from local flooding.....	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. The City plans to install trash capture devices in storm drains which remove trash and pollution before they enter Marina Lagoon and San Francisco Bay.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
6. This measure would be a critical first step in combating the effects of climate change on Marina Lagoon, where lower water levels and increased temperatures are increasing the frequency of algae blooms.....	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
7. This measure may not be enough to fully fund Marina Lagoon dredging work; a separate stormwater fee may be needed to fund this important work along with other stormwater management challenges.....	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
8. The City plans to address its drainage and water quality challenges in ways that are environmentally sustainable, including green infrastructure, to protect Marina Lagoon	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
9. This measure would be fully dedicated to the restoration and maintenance of Marina Lagoon, and could not be used for any other reason by the City Council or taken away by county or state government	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
10. This measure would include rates tiered by proximity to Marina Lagoon (frontage, walkable, others)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
11. This measure would help ensure safe, clean, healthy water in the creeks flowing through San Mateo to Marina Lagoon and the Bay, now and for future generations.....	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please use the space below to write any reasons why you support or oppose this proposed measure. Also, please describe which issues are most important to you:

ENCUESTA OFICIAL DE LA CIUDAD DE SAN MATEO

Iniciativa de recuperación de Marina Lagoon



Se envió por correo esta encuesta, a residentes y propietarios de negocios de la ciudad de San Mateo para obtener información y comentarios. Esta información ayudará a la ciudad a tomar decisiones sobre la financiación de la futura recuperación de Marina Lagoon y los servicios de mantenimiento. Complete y envíe esta encuesta lo antes posible. Puede llenarla en línea o enviarla por correo en el sobre de respuesta pagado que recibió. Envíela antes del 26 de noviembre de 2021.

Instrucciones para la encuesta:

- 1) Lea atentamente las preguntas enumeradas más abajo.
- 2) Marque el círculo con su respuesta. Utilice una pluma (bolígrafo) y rellene todo el círculo.
- 3) Corte la parte inferior de esta hoja que contiene sus respuestas.
- 4) Coloque la parte que cortó dentro del sobre que enviará y llévelo al correo (no pague la estampilla).

Corte aquí

Complete la parte inferior, corte en esta línea y envíela por correo en el sobre

Corte aquí

Elija una de las siguientes opciones para completar esta encuesta en línea:

- visite www.inputlocal.com, e ingrese: SURVEY NAME "MATEOML-1", SURVEY CODE _____; o
- escanee el código QR de la derecha con su teléfono y siga las instrucciones.



Se les puede pedir a los residentes y propietarios de negocios de San Mateo que voten en una medida electoral local de la siguiente manera. Indique su nivel de apoyo.

1. Para continuar protegiendo Marina Lagoon e invirtiendo en el servicio comunitario para disfrutar del lugar, ir a la playa, navegar y realizar otras actividades acuáticas para futuras generaciones por medio de:
 - el mantenimiento del crecimiento de la vegetación y otras cuestiones de calidad del agua; y
 - el aumento de la retención del agua de lluvia y la capacidad de control de inundaciones con el dragado de lodo y sedimentos; y
 - la restitución de una profundidad en la laguna que sea suficiente para la navegación, recreación y soportar el caudal de lluvia;

¿Le gustaría financiar una evaluación anual de cada propiedad(es) por el monto de _____, que se obtendrá del impuesto inmobiliario?

Definitivamente SI

Probablemente YES

Probablemente NO

Definitivamente NO



Lea las siguientes afirmaciones con respecto a la propuesta de ley de restauración de Marina Lagoon. En cada afirmación indique que tan probable es que apoye la propuesta:

	Más probable	Un poco más probable	No influye	Un poco menos probable	Menos probable
2. Esta medida pagaría una parte del dragado de Marina Lagoon para devolverle al canal la profundidad original para la navegación	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Esta medida ayudaría a financiar el mantenimiento anual de la limpieza y seguridad en la navegación, natación y otras actividades acuáticas en Marina Lagoon	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Esta medida permitiría una mejor capacidad de control de las inundaciones en Marina Lagoon, lo que protegería las calles y propiedades de inundaciones locales.....	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. En las alcantarillas, la ciudad planea instalar dispositivos de filtrado de basura y elementos que contaminan antes de que ingresen en Marina Lagoon y la bahía de San Francisco.....	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
6. Esta medida sería un primer paso fundamental para combatir los efectos del cambio climático en Marina Lagoon, donde el bajo nivel de agua y las temperaturas elevadas aumentan la proliferación de algas	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
7. Esta propuesta podría no ser suficiente para financiar por completo el dragado de Marina Lagoon; es posible que se necesite una tarifa adicional para financiar este importante trabajo junto con otros problemas en el control del caudal de lluvia.....	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
8. Para proteger Marina Lagoon, la ciudad abordará las dificultades del desagüe y la calidad del agua de manera sustentable para el medio ambiente, incluida la infraestructura ecológica	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
9. Esta propuesta se destinará completamente a la restauración y mantenimiento de Marina Lagoon. El concejo municipal no podrá utilizarla para ninguna otra razón, ni el gobierno estatal o del condado podrán eliminarla.....	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
10. Esta medida podría incluir tarifas escalonadas según proximidad a Marina Lagoon (por frente, peatonal, otros) .	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
11. This measure would help ensure safe, clean, healthy water in the creeks flowing through San Mateo to Marina Lagoon and the Bay, now and for future generations.....	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Utilice el siguiente espacio para escribir cualquier razón que tenga para apoyar u oponerse a la propuesta. Además, puede explicar cualquier asunto que le parezca relevante:

From: Mareva <>

Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 12:38 PM

To: Amourance Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Eric Rodriguez <erodriguez@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rick Bonilla <RBonilla@cityofsanmateo.org>; Joe Goethals <jgoethals@cityofsanmateo.org>; Diane Papan <dpapan@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Sarah Scheidt <sscheidt@cityofsanmateo.org>; Drew Corbett <dcorbett@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Kimiko Narita <knarita@cityofsanmateo.org>; Susan Rowinski <srowinski@cityofsanmateo.org>; Clifford Robbins <crobbins@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rafael Reyes <rreyes@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Regarding Recommendation Upcoming on March 21 to City Council

Esteemed City Council Members Gothals, Lee, and Rodriguez, Deputy Papan, and Mayor Bonilla,

After listening to the March 9, 2022, presentation and subsequent recommendations from the Sustainability and Infrastructure Commission regarding the results of the SCI survey to residents we are compelled to request that City Council carefully assess the validity of the recommendation to “consider a Marina Lagoon assessment in the future,” postponing it by “several years,” given the possible skewed results of the survey.

It seems clear that the question to SCI Consulting Group was how to get more revenues for the City of San Mateo, **not how to educate the public and then survey them in a single survey addressing all the components of our stormwater infrastructure prior to issuing a recommendation.** In the report by SCI, it states “while the support levels for the Marina Lagoon Assessment were slightly higher than for a Stormwater Fee, the lower revenue potential from the former combined with the strong negative argument of insufficiency suggested that a Marina Lagoon-centric assessment would not be worth pursuing at this time.”

The City Council, at the end of the SCI funding study reporting, approved a robust outreach to the community and the surveying of residents regarding a stormwater utility fee hike as a trial balloon.

Here are the main flaws we hear in the recommendation(s) you will get on the 21st of March, 2022:

1. Two completely different surveys were sent out to 10,000 people with a 15% return. Yet there was no clear directive from City Council in any meeting to split stormwater utility fee hike and Marina Lagoon maintenance. **The mere act of separate surveys weakens the importance of its function as “the City’s primary flood control basin.”** In addition, those residents who got the Marina Lagoon survey answered the question; “would you support an annual assessment on each property in the amount of ____ collected on the property tax bill?” without realizing that the amount reflected was different depending on where the residence was located along Marina Lagoon, something that was not even addressed until item number 10 on their survey: This measure would include

rates tiered by proximity to Marina Lagoon (frontage, walkable, others), appear to lack clarity and adequate transparency.

2. The idea of differentiated benefits assessments based on the location of the property in respect to Marina Lagoon is destined to fail to pass and invalidates what is already recognized- **Marina Lagoon is an integral and critical part of the stormwater infrastructure for San Mateo.** It's been stated multiple times, in various meetings, that the water retention basin called Marina Lagoon **serves the entire city of San Mateo**, so to adhere to the concept that people living close to the Lagoon should pay more, just because they happen to live closer than other residents in San Mateo, is a slap in the face and gives much more weight to its "recreation attraction" function, something we all already know is a "well-kept secret." However, stormwater capacity basins in relation to flooding prevention is not a well-kept secret. So why is this being kept on a back-burner repeatedly? Stormwater retention is an issue for everyone, and funding maintenance/restoration solutions affects every resident in the city of San Mateo and deserves to be addressed sooner rather than later by its City Council. Do the residents living along Central Park pay more because of its easy access to them? Because their children can play ball, use the playground, look at koi in the Japanese Garden all at a moment's notice? No. In fact, the higher cost of living along the lagoon is already embedded in a higher price to buy and higher property taxes to pay. **We, who living in proximity to the lagoon are not responsible for "everyone's water."**

3. Just look at the two headings of the Surveys: **Clean Creeks and Flood Protection Initiative** vs **Marina Lagoon Restoration Initiative**. Which one will get more resident attention? Which one do they lack general knowledge about? The Clean Creeks and Flood Protection Initiative info packet states, (under the heading Marina Lagoon-Gem of the City,) that "among the stormwater management activities in the City of San Mateo, one has emerged as paramount: stewardship of Marina Lagoon. As the receiving body of most of the City's stormwater flows, the Lagoon has an important drainage role." Shouldn't this be the basis for a robust education/outreach program for the public?

According to Mr. Bradshaw, of SCI Consulting Group, the survey went out "cold" with no prior public outreach regarding the issues prior to deployment. Instead, each survey had a two-page written explanation. How many voters read the attached informational piece with due diligence? Does that constitute an outreach effort? Already it is well documented that Marina Lagoon is a well-kept secret unless you live close by as the city has never taken any steps to highlight and brand Marina Lagoon as "The Gem of the City" as it states it is in the informational attachment to the survey. At the funding recommendations meeting on Feb. 10, 2021, Commissioner Reyes stated, agreeing with public comment, that "if a survey went out that day that it would not pass" as it is a well-kept secret. So how can any cold survey generate accurate data needed to make further recommendations? When you look at the margins for passing generated by the ML Initiative, the question begs to be asked: What would the results have been if the voters were truly educated? Because as the numbers stand, they are not a definitive "NO."

We believe the City Council well understands that kicking the can down the street for “several years” will only compound the sedimentation issues affecting the Lagoon and increase costs of even the partial, temporary solution of addressing the South end inlet which feeds the entire Lagoon. Do not accept the recommendations proposed, if the intention is to move forward. Find other funding sources, if you do proceed to propose a fee hike proposal to the voters then unite the two initiatives under one banner, drop the idea of differentiated tax fees based on location, and VIGOROUSLY, ROBUSTLY educate the public on the integral nature of the currently separate initiatives BEFORE you take any more steps, while simultaneously branding Marina Lagoon as The Gem of the City. Without it, anything needing voter approval on these initiatives now, and in the future, will subsequently fail. In the very words of Mayor Bonilla on his first day as such, “Last, but not least, the lagoon. The lagoon has been neglected for far too long...”

Thank you for considering this request. We appreciate all you do on behalf of all the residents of San Mateo, but we feel strongly that this last step, un-preceded by an education/outreach program, was not undertaken with the 41-year neglect nor the little-known vital functions of Marina Lagoon having been given their due.

Laguna Vista HOA Marina Lagoon Committee,

Mareva Godfrey, Lori Middione, Heidi Moser, Valerie Oblath

From [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2022 8:01 AM

To: Amourance Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Eric Rodriguez <erodriguez@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rick Bonilla <RBonilla@cityofsanmateo.org>; Joe Goethals <jgoethals@cityofsanmateo.org>; Diane Papan <dpapan@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Sarah Scheidt <sscheidt@cityofsanmateo.org>; Drew Corbett <dcorbett@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Kimiko Narita <knarita@cityofsanmateo.org>; Susan Rowinski <srowinski@cityofsanmateo.org>; Clifford Robbins <crobbsins@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rafael Reyes <rreyes@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Stormwater Funding-Survey Analysis: Recommendations to SM City Council

Dear Mayor Bonilla and all City Council Members.

First, my thanks to each of you for all the work you do. I am a San Mateo property owner of 20 years standing and would like to provide feedback to the Sustainability & Infrastructure Commission's March 9 discussion regarding the Stormwater Funding-Survey Findings. Most specifically to the Commission's conclusions and proposed recommendations to the SM City Council. To say that they gave me pause is a mild understatement. More accurately, I was appalled. Why?

1. Clearly San Mateo is seeking the most expeditious means to get a stormwater funding measure both on the ballot and passed. Bottom line: How to get the most revenue for the City to manage its stormwater system. Although the public was led to believe that one survey would be sent, there were two: one for general public benefit ("Clean Creeks & Flood Protection Initiative") and a second for "special benefits" ("Marina Lagoon Restoration Initiative). Why were they separated? The Marina Lagoon is an integral part of the City's stormwater infrastructure. To remind you all:

The Marina Lagoon---having a watershed covering 6,600 acres---serves as a flood control basin of most of the City's stormwater flows and urban runoff from nearby creeks. It was designed specifically to mitigate long standing city flooding problems. Recreational use was and has always been secondary. Sixty percent (60%), beginning at the north end and running to Hillsdale Boulevard, was dug in 1952. The remaining 40% (the "south end", between Hillsdale Boulevard to O'Neill Slough) was dredged in 1964 (Delay due to lack of funds. Hmm, the writing was on the wall even then!). Between 1952 and 1964 the south end was marsh land (ref: interaction with SM City employee below).

The only reason that the public would perceive raising funds for the maintenance of the Lagoon as a "special benefit" is the result of lack of education and outreach. And the very obvious aim of the City, in designing two surveys, was to present the Lagoon as distinct and different, not as an integral---fundamental and essential---part of the entire stormwater system. There are other flaws with the Marina Lagoon survey (ref: March 9 statement below), but this one is major.

2. Concluding that identifying funding for the lagoon and the subsequent dredging can be delayed “several years” is irresponsible.

The urban runoff resulting in vast accumulated amounts of sedimentation is constant. It doesn't turn on and off. Yet the first and only dredging to control/remove sedimentation occurred in 1981: The south end was dredged to remove sediment deposited by inflow from O'Neill Slough and Laurel Creek (Per the San Mateo City Council minutes of May 4, 1981, the total bid was \$529,000 and in concurrence, the City Manager and Director of Public Works awarded the contract to R&D Watson). Since that time and despite repeated calls by the public and recommendations by consultants hired by the City, **no subsequent dredging of the south end has occurred in 40 years.**

In the last three years we have witnessed major flooding in Europe and our own country's Midwest and Southeast. Should numerous river cyclones occur in our locale (already one this past winter), how is the City going to respond? Can it guarantee that the pumping facility will be able to control flooding at the Lagoon's southern end where the current accumulation of sediment is so high the water depth (originally dredged to six feet) is at its deepest 6-8 inches? Is the City prepared to roll the dice and wait even more years to rectify this situation? I should hope not.

3. Perhaps transparency would be good at this juncture:

Two years ago a San Mateo city employee asked me the following: “Valerie, an idea is being bandied about to just turn this [i.e., lagoon southern end] area back to marsh land. How do you feel about that?” My response, of course, was a polite, “No, not an acceptable solution”. Another individual nearby was asked the same question. His response was also “No”. But surely one can understand the red flag that it raised in our minds. So, I ask now: **Is this “idea” still under consideration?** Based on the following comments stated at the March 9 meeting, there is good reason to believe that this is the case.

a) 1:19:35 - 1:20:07 Minutes into Meeting: “...I think the lagoon results had some internal flaws that were revealed in the low level of funding I think it made our job easier setting it aside for now. Now that's not to say that if you get a stormwater fee less than you want but you get it passed that you maybe do come out with a lagoon type of funding. But you want to have it to be several years down the line. It's another city wide ballot measure.”

b) 1:38:30 – 1:39:30 Minutes into the Meeting: “...general benefit things that are perceived as city-wide are going to be much better received...as opposed to things seen as special benefits. And that's always going to be a problem with the lagoon folks...not to say that we should take off the table in years going forward some way to get that dredging taken care of...”

I fully appreciate that this is not a problem easily resolved. But it is not a new problem, and it should not be taken off the table now. We live in one of the wealthiest areas in

this country and to not find means to fund this project is unconscionable. Again, the Marina Lagoon was designed and is a stormwater basin used to mitigate flooding **for the city, not just the “lagoon folks.”** It should not be thought of, presented or categorized---intentionally or not---as merely a special benefits project. If the Marina Lagoon maintenance is not well received because of that perception, whose fault is it really? Dredging the lagoon's southern end is an absolute necessity. Keep it on the table. Find a way. Now.

Respectfully,

Valerie Oblath



Stormwater Funding – Survey Results

March 21, 2022

Sarah Scheidt- Regulatory Compliance Manager

Jerry Bradshaw – SCI Consulting Group

Presentation Agenda

- Project background and history
- Stormwater Funding Analysis
- Stormwater survey results
- Recommended Next steps

Project History and Background



Marina Lagoon Issues

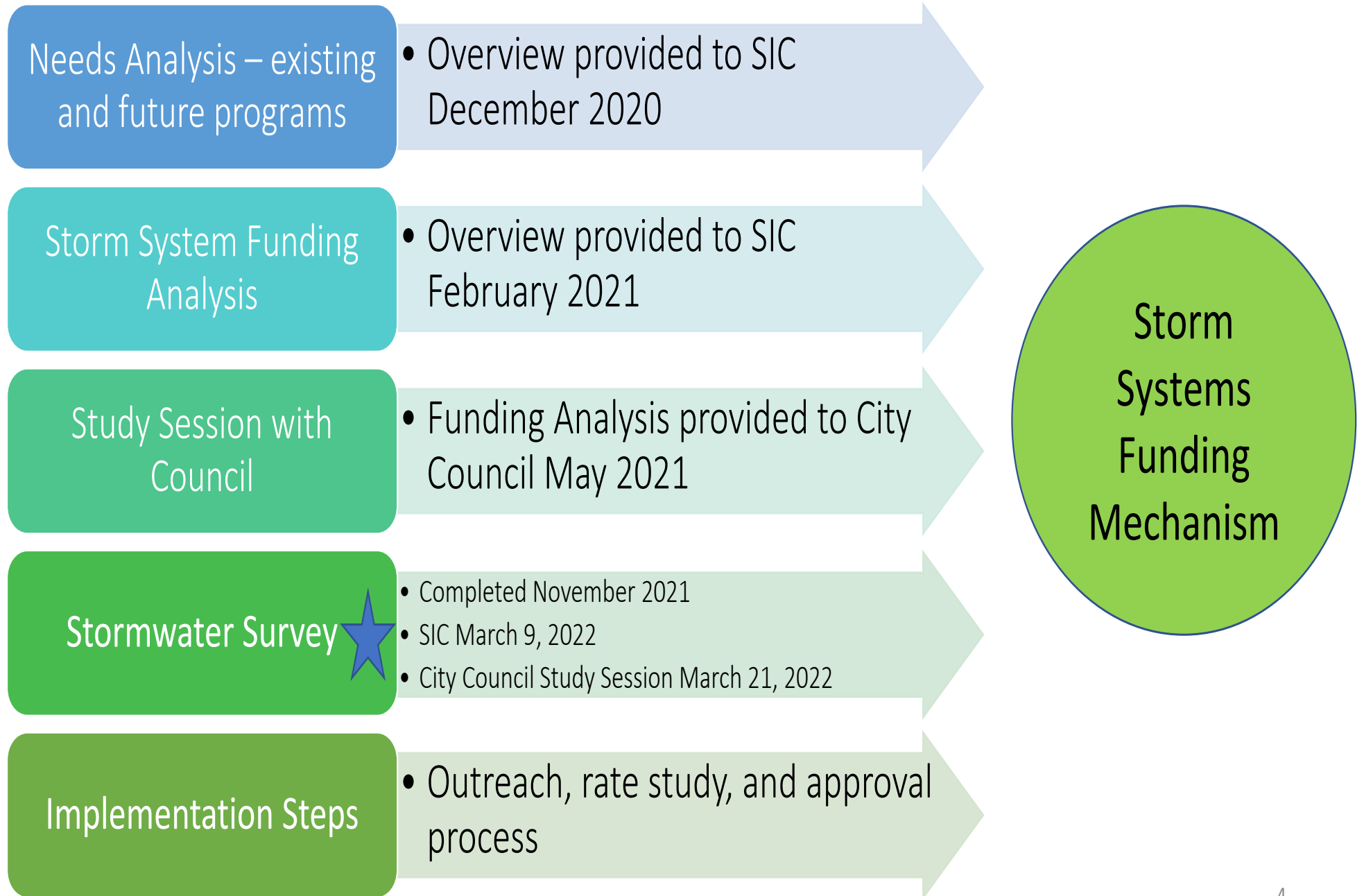


Capital Improvement /
Operations and
Maintenance



Comprehensive Storm
System Funding
Evaluation

Storm Systems Evaluation Process



Community Survey

What

Two separate surveys
Stormwater (5,000 mailed)
Lagoon-centric (5,000 mailed)

Why

Learn community priorities – Verify alignment with City's
Test messaging & willingness to invest
Narrow options → best path forward (*fee / assessment*)
Projects and issues polled to gauge support

How

Mailed on November 5th
Return rate was 15%
Margin of error < 4%

Revenue Requirement and User Fee Estimates

Operations

\$3.6 M

Lagoon Dredging

\$1.9 M

Capital Program

\$2.9 M

**Annual Requirement
= \$8.4 M**

Equates to ~\$192 / year
(average home)



\$82

\$43

\$66

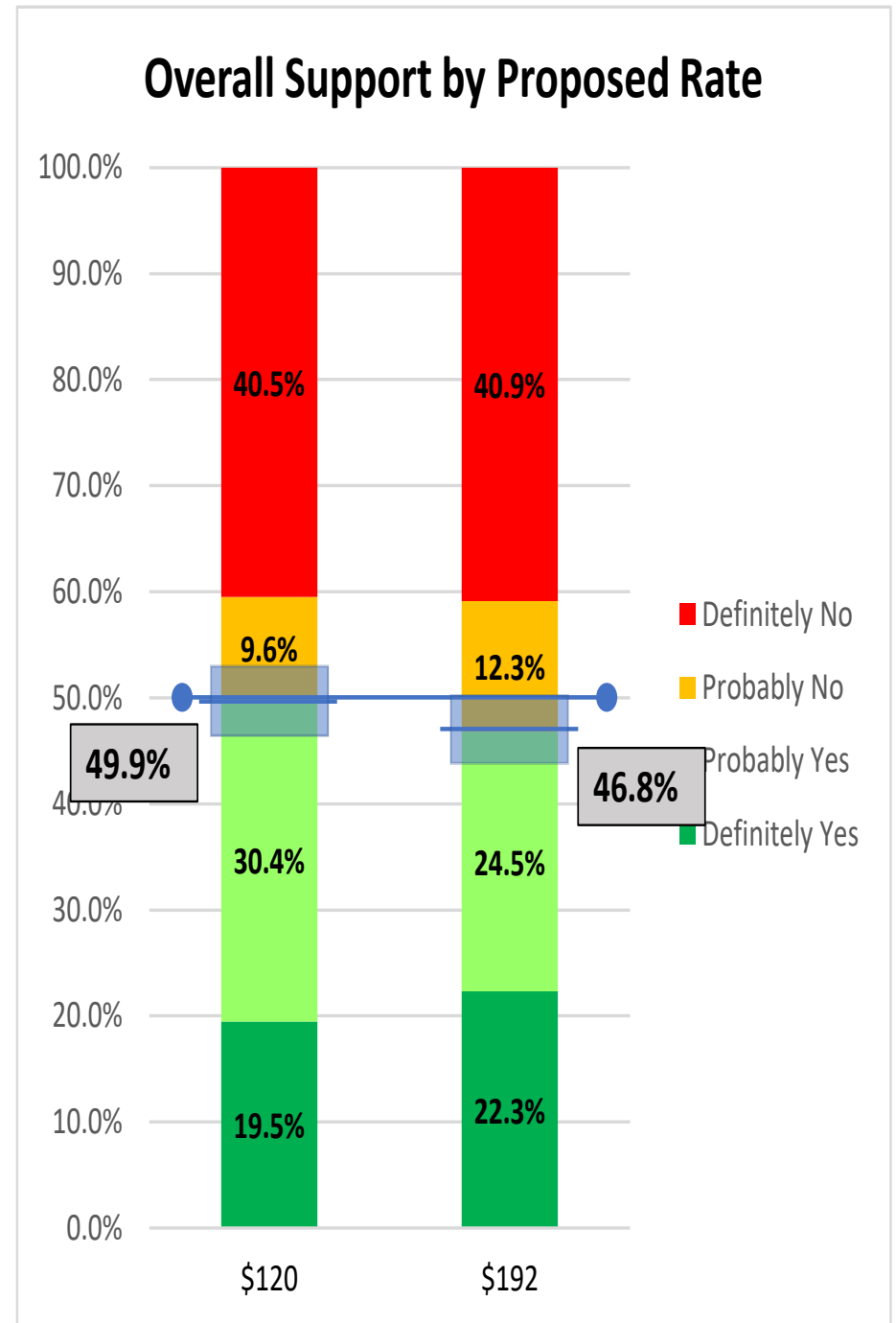
Recent Balloted Fees

- \$192 annual rate is on high end
- Cities with no previous fee struggled (*Moraga, Los Altos*)

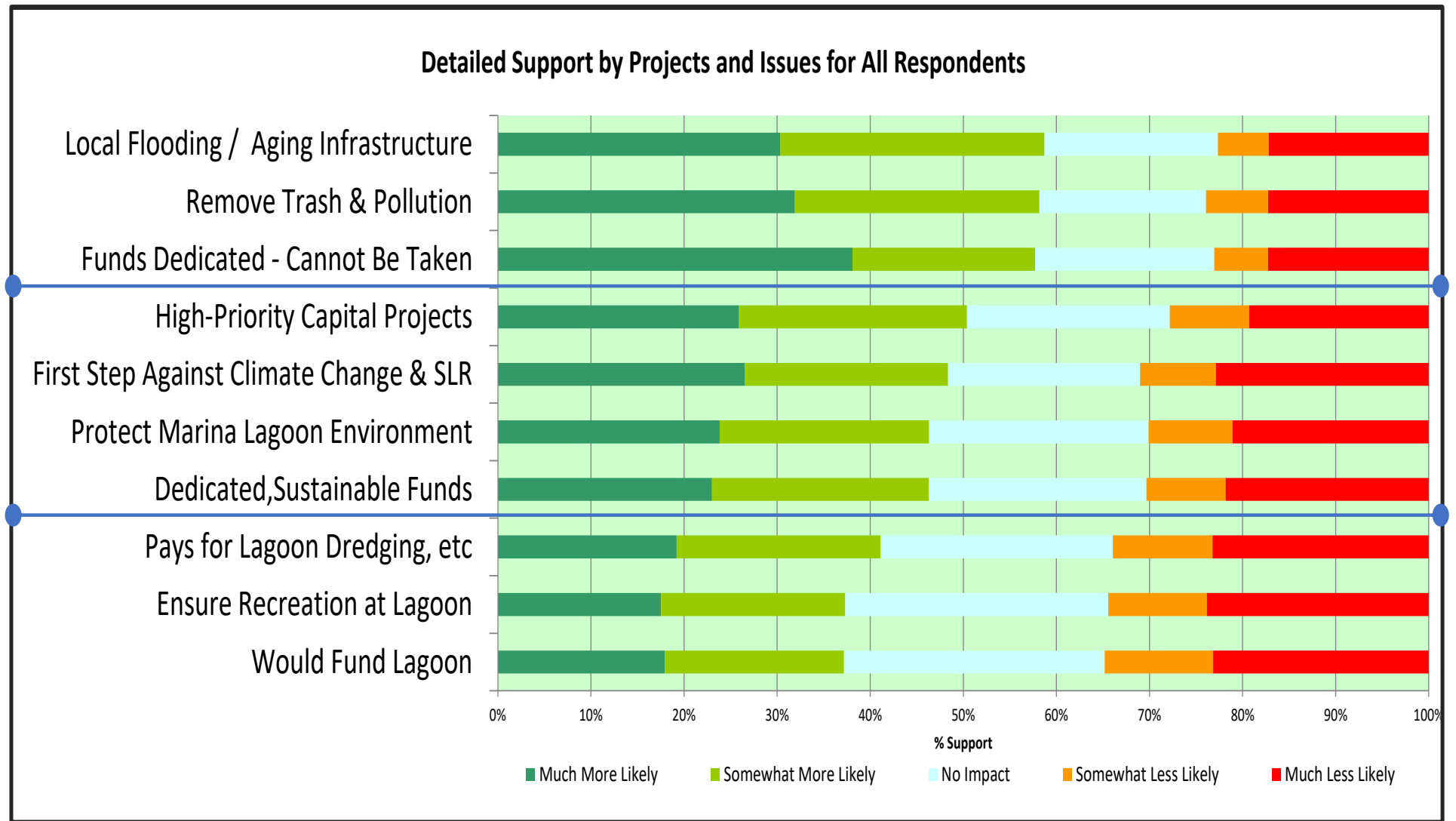
Agency	Annual Amount	Year Balloted
City of Davis	\$157	2021
City of San Bruno	\$154	2021
City of Alameda	\$129	2019
City of Cupertino	\$56	2019
Town of Los Altos	\$88	2019
City of Berkeley	\$96	2018
County of Los Angeles	\$83	2018
Town of Moraga	\$120	2018
Palo Alto	\$164	2017
Culver City	\$99	2016
Burlingame	\$150	2009

Stormwater Survey Findings

- City-wide Stormwater Fee (*Annual*)
 - \$120 – 49.9% support
 - \$192 – 46.8% support
- Margin of error = 3.4%
 - Slightly higher if taken separately
- (NOTE: Survey used monthly rates of \$10 and \$16)



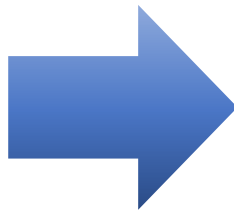
Stormwater Projects & Issues



Lagoon-Only Funding

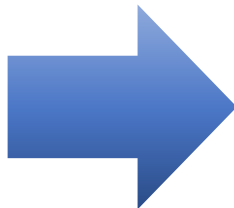
- Benefit assessment proposed
 - Intended to fund Marina Lagoon life-cycle costs (\$1.9 million)
- Three-tiered assessment structure (*Annual*)

- \$150 – Lagoon frontage
- \$50 – Walking distance
- \$10 – Everyone else in town



\$500,000 revenue

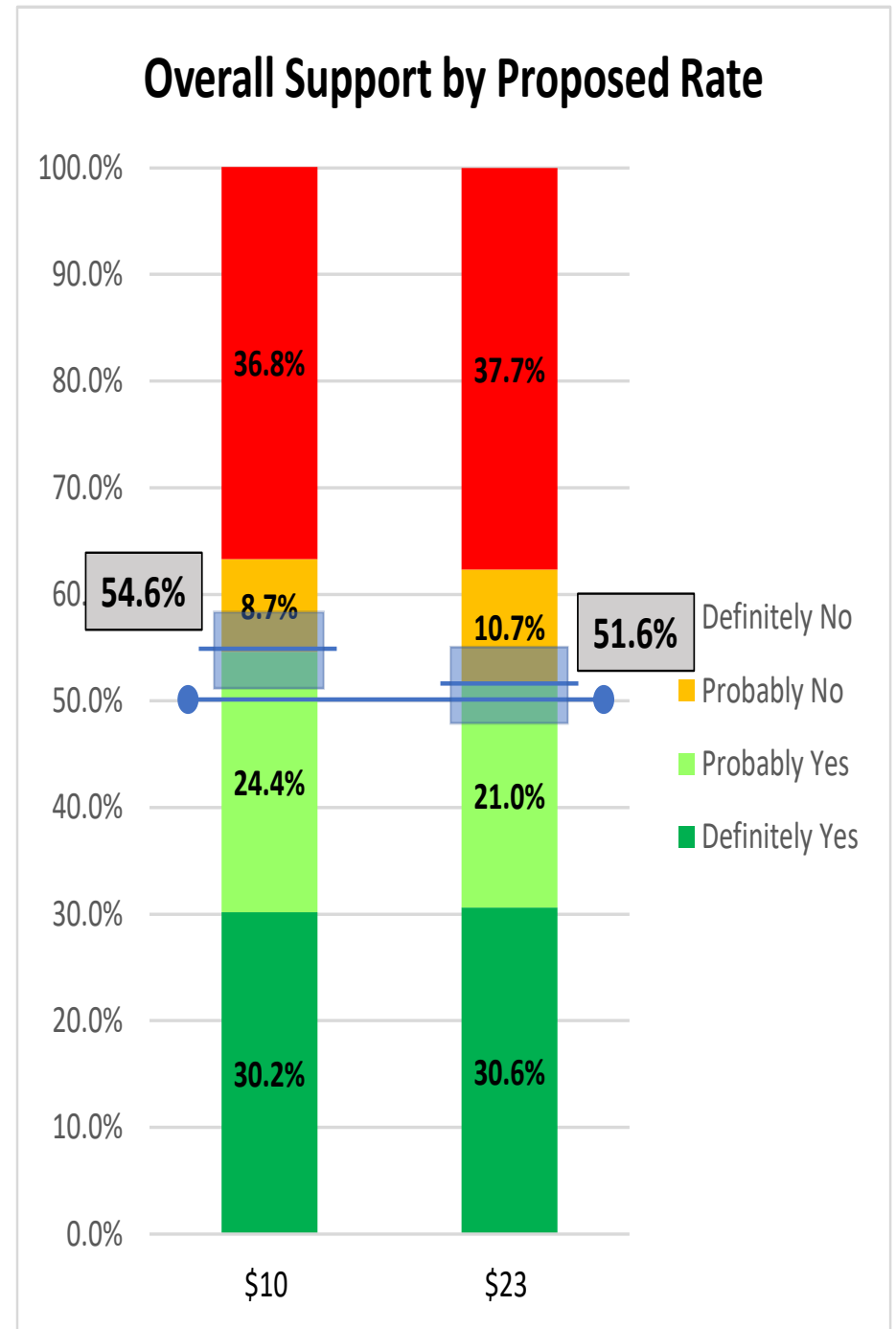
- \$350 – Lagoon frontage
- \$117 – Walking distance
- \$23 – Everyone else in town



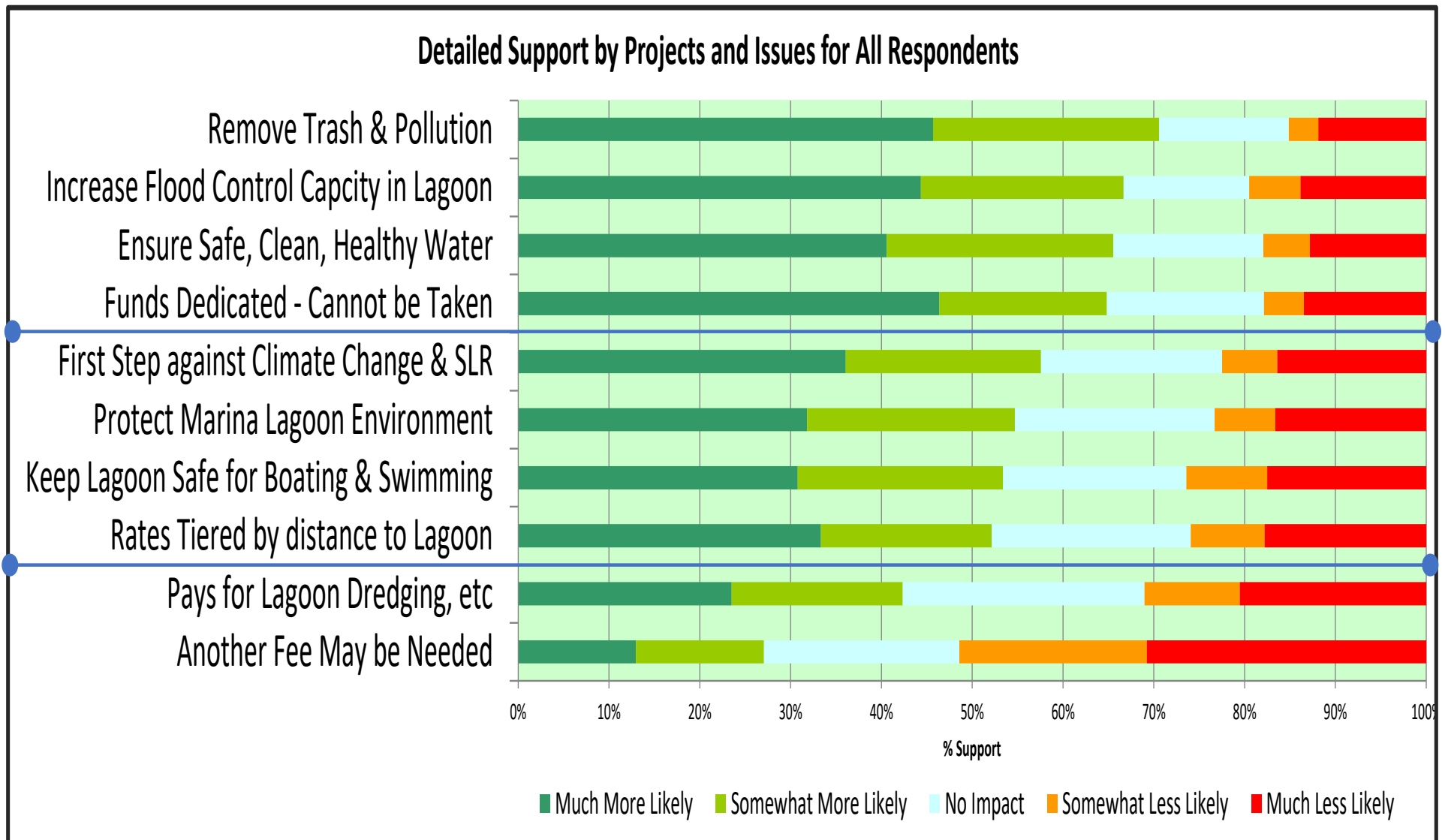
\$1,200,000 revenue

Marina Lagoon Survey Findings

- Marina Lagoon assessment (*Annual*)
 - City-wide
 - \$10.00 – 54.6% support
 - \$23.33 – 51.6% support
- Margin of error = 3.6%
 - Slightly higher if taken separately



Lagoon Projects & Issues



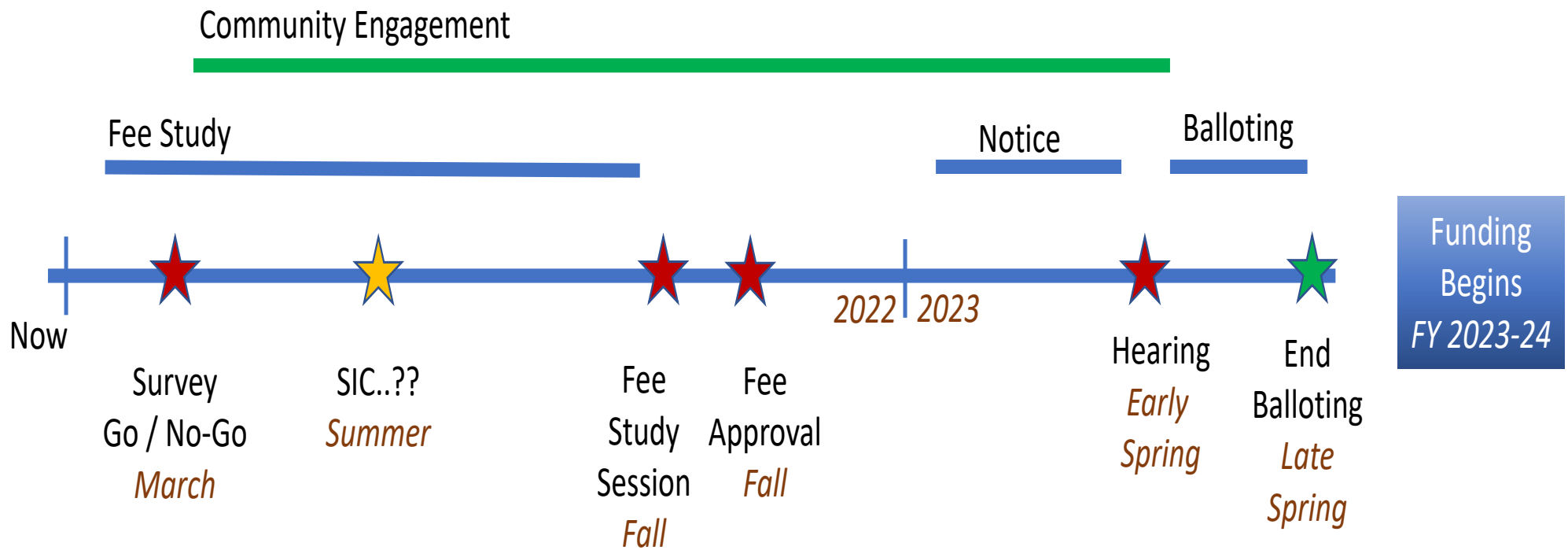
Findings

- Lagoon results are higher, but the revenue potential is much less
- Stormwater results are below the comfort zone, but a lower rate could get more support
- Stormwater Projects and Issues:
 - Top tier of issues includes flooding, environmental, fiscal responsibility
 - Lagoon work has little support (bottom three)
- Lagoon Projects and Issues
 - Top tier of issues includes flooding, environmental, fiscal responsibility
 - Bottom tier
 - Funds are for dredging Lagoon to restore boating capacity
 - Funds are not adequate; another fee may be required

Recommendations

- Move away from the Lagoon Assessment for now
 - Low revenue potential – would likely need a stormwater fee anyway
 - Low support for the core work – dredging
- Move forward on a Stormwater Fee
 - Reduce rate below \$100 per year (\$8 per month), evaluate impacts.
 - Initiate robust community engagement program
- Other recommendations
 - Continue with Fee Study
 - Coordinate with other City priorities & initiatives
 - Schedule balloting to **AVOID** November elections (pushes this to early 2023)

Next Steps - Timeline





SIC Comments

- Supported staff recommendation
 - Lower fee
 - Robust outreach strategy
 - Spring 2023 ballot measure
- Continue Explore partnerships (C/CAG, County, or Foster City)



Thank You

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Community Engagement Approach

Goal:

- Help community learn about the importance of investing in the City's Stormwater infrastructure

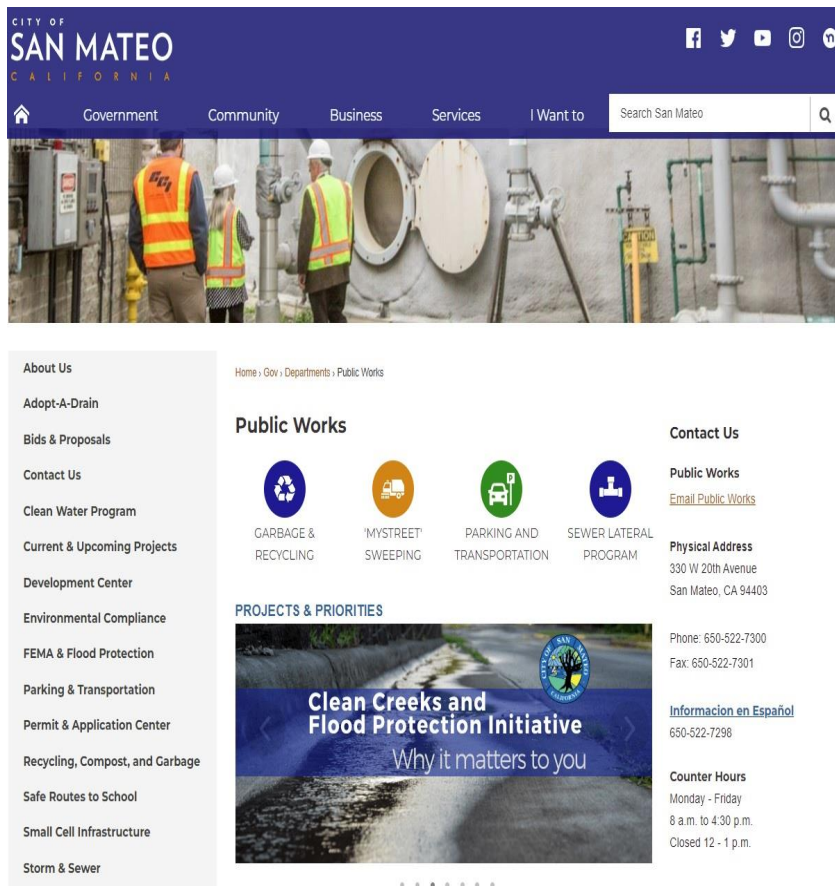
Approach:

- Phase 1 – Listening to property owners, community leaders
- Phase 2 – Branding the stormwater awareness campaign
- Phase 3 – Active engagement of the public about stormwater infrastructure

Tools:

- Citizen working group
- Existing City outreach channels (website, Enews, Social channels, etc.)
- Earned media (Local print, TV, radio, and history and environment bloggers)
- Community Influencers (HOAs, neighborhood leaders, etc.)

City's Community Engagement Toolkit



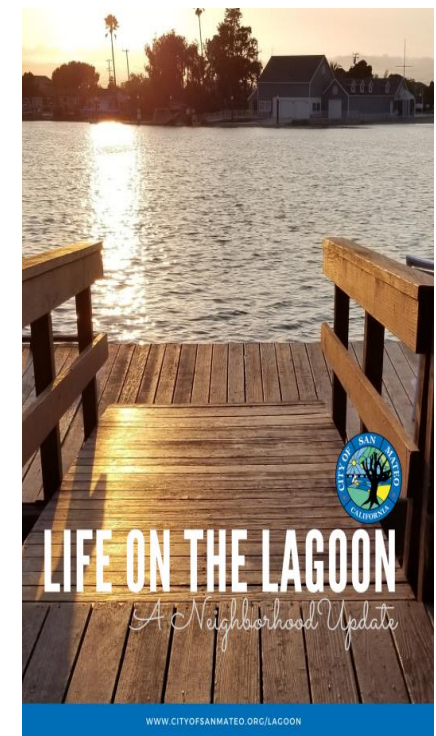
Website



ENewsletter



Social Channels



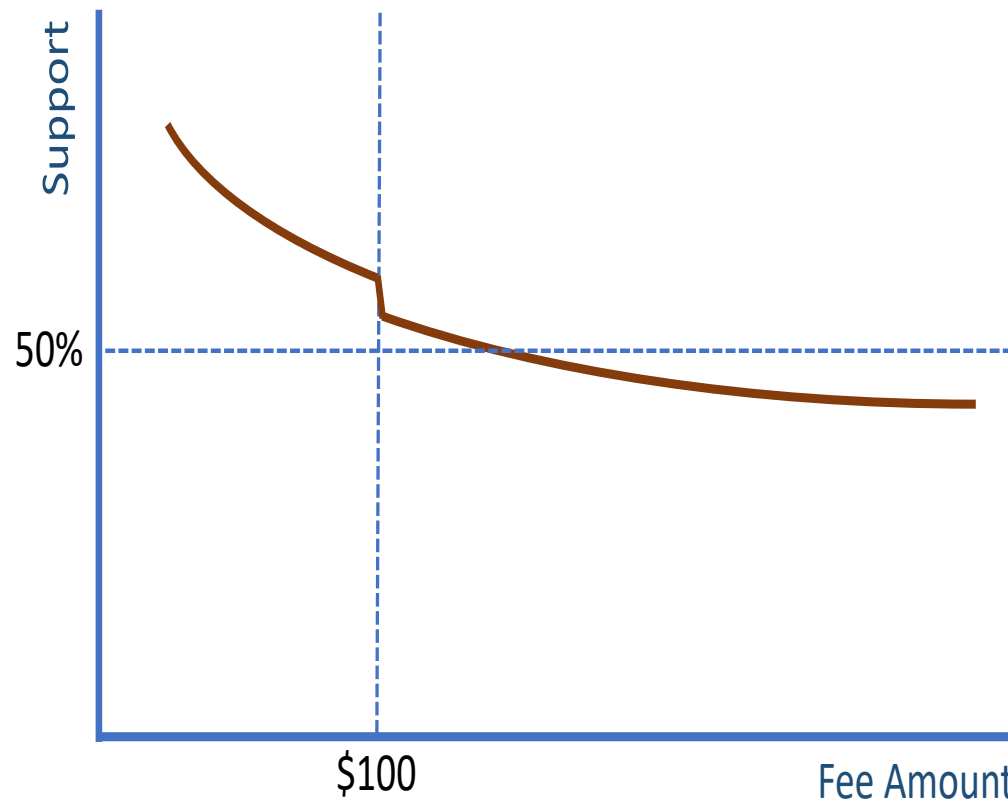
Printed Mailers

Lower Rate = Lower Revenue

Potential Impacts:

- Delay program enhancements
 - Catch basin preventative maintenance
 - Creek cleaning
 - Green infrastructure O&M
- Reduce capital investment
 - Slow high-priority project delivery
 - Delay first lagoon dredging project

Support versus Fee Amount



Potential Changes in the Legal Landscape

- Statewide Taxpayer Protection Initiative
- Draft for submitted for Attorney General review
 - Title and Summary
- Original version quite disruptive to current legal requirements for ballot measures
 - Recent revision backs down from several proposals
- Summary
 - No impact on property-related fees or benefit assessments
 - Mostly deals with special tax requirements (2/3 majority in ALL cases, must occur at general election (with council members))