



Date: April 3, 2007
 Committee Meeting Date: April 11, 2007
 Board Meeting Date: N/A
 ACTION DISCUSSION INFO

BOARD MEMORANDUM

TO: 2000 Measure A Citizens Watchdog Committee
 Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
 Board of Directors

THROUGH: Michael T. Burns
 General Manager

FROM: Jim Lawson
 Government Affairs Manager

SUBJECT: Citizens Watchdog Committee Public Hearing

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

BACKGROUND:

In November 2000, Santa Clara County voters approved Measure A, a 30-year half cent sales tax devoted to transit projects. The Measure A ballot specified that, among other duties, the Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) must review all 2000 Measure A expenditures, have an independent audit conducted each fiscal year, hold public hearings and issue reports at least annually to inform Santa Clara County residents how the funds are being spent, and publish the results of the independent audit and the annual report in local newspapers.

DISCUSSION

To fulfill its responsibility, the Citizens Watchdog Committee is holding a public hearing on Wednesday, April 11 at 6:00 p.m. The hearing is being conducted in the Auditorium (Building A) of VTA's River Oaks Administration Offices, 3331 North First Street in San Jose.

Purpose

The public hearing is to provide the opportunity for the community to express to the CWC its views, opinions and concerns on 2000 Measure A Program expenditures, the results of the annual independent audit, and on 2000 Measure A Program reports.

The CWC will combine the input received at the hearing with information and data received from the independent audit and other sources to render a conclusion on whether 2000 Measure A tax dollars are being spent in accordance with the intent of the measure.

Public Notice

- The public notice announcing the hearing was published on Friday, March 23 in three general circulation newspapers in VTA's service area: The San Jose Mercury News, El Observador (Spanish), and Thoi Bao (Vietnamese). It was also posted on VTA's website.
- The notice specified the hearing's time, location, purpose and briefly described the 2000 Measure A Program and history. It also indicated where detailed program information could be accessed, how written comments could be submitted, and that sign language services would be provided at the meeting.

The Hearing

- The CWC chairperson formally opens the hearing, describing its purpose. At its conclusion, the chairperson formally closes the hearing, at which time normal Committee business resumes.
- The Committee receives input from the public at the hearing but does not debate nor engage in extended discussion with speakers or other CWC members. Committee members may ask brief questions to clarify a statement or issue. If readily available or easily answered, the Committee or staff may provide very brief answers to speaker's questions. All other questions will be referred to staff to formulate a written response from the Committee.
- All speakers will be required to fill out a blue speaker's card and to verbally state their name for the record. Speakers will be limited to providing comments on 2000 Measure A Program-related issues only.

Following the Hearing

- The transcript of the proceedings prepared by a court reporter and an audio recording of the hearing will be available to the public within a reasonable timeframe following the hearing.
- When the Committee has developed its conclusion on whether 2000 Measure A tax dollars are being spent in accordance with the intent of the measure, the CWC's annual report reflecting its determination will be published in local newspapers.

Prepared by: Stephen Flynn, Sr. Management Analyst