City of Brisbane
Agenda Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Caroline Cheung via Clay Holstine, City Manager

DATE: Meeting of April 15, 2013

SUBJECT: Revised Letter to the County Board of Supervisors Re: Measure A Spending Proposal

PURPOSE:
To put in writing Mayor Pro Tem Conway's recommendation to the San Mateo County of Supervisors as they consider how to invest the estimated $60 million in Measure A funds within the county.

RECOMMENDATION:
For the following letter to be signed by the Mayor so it can be sent to the County Board of Supervisors as they review proposals for Measure A funds in the coming months.

BACKGROUND:
Mayor Pro Tem Conway attended the first of two Measure A Board Workshops on January 15, 2013. He emphasized the need for Measure A funds to be allocated towards Affordable Housing, as the need for such has become great with the official dissolution of redevelopment agencies on February 1, 2012.

After reviewing the letters presented at the April 1st Council meeting, the City Council agreed to expand on: the areas where affordable housing dollars had been used in the past, the importance of having flexibility in spending the funds, and having data included in the letter from (Human Investment Project) HIP Housing Executive Director Kate Comfort Harr's March 18th presentation before the City Council. Staff would also reach out to see whether other cities had sent in similar endorsements to the County Supervisors for affordable housing dollars.

MEASURE OF SUCCESS:
The Board of Supervisors decides to allocate funds for housing affordability when this priority category comes before them at their May 7, 2013 meeting.

Caroline Cheung,
Administrative Management Analyst

Clay Holstine,
City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1 – Updated draft letter to the County Board of Supervisors

CITY OF BRISBANE

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April 15, 2013

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
Hall of Justice and Records
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

Re: Spending Proposal for Measure A Sales Tax

Dear Board President Don Horsley and Members of the Board,

The City of Brisbane supports the suggestion made by Mayor Pro Tem Clarke Conway on your online forum regarding the expenditure of the $60 million annually that will be raised by the implementation of the sales tax approved by Measure A. The City Council recognizes the needs of the various communities within the County are different and cannot be solved through a single cookie cutter approach. Therefore, our Council endorsed a proposal in which the County would provide funding to the individual cities to be used for low income housing, and understand similar endorsements have been sent from the cities of San Mateo and Foster City.

From the city's perspective, the top priority is funding for affordable housing. As a consequence of the demise of the redevelopment agencies, cities no longer have any dedicated funds for affordable housing. In a presentation made by Kate Comfort Harr, Executive Director of Human Investment Project (HIP) Housing, to the City Council last month, San Mateo County is the second most expensive place to live, second only to New York and tied with San Francisco. The average monthly rent for a one-bedroom apartment in San Mateo is $1,926, an increase of 12.4% since last June. (Source: San Mateo County Housing Indicators December 2012).

Affordable housing isn't just building a house, but maximizing the County's existing housing stock with programs such as Home Sharing, which HIP Housing oversees; keeping residents comfortable in their homes and providing home renovations and repairs which is the charge of Rebuilding Together; or subsidizing water bills which the City of Brisbane has done for the past several years. We ask for the flexibility to continue to work with these organizations and provide our low-income residents a realistic, workable solution by having $500,000 dedicated to each city within the county for affordable housing programs and solutions. We can imagine no more important community investment, especially in a county like San Mateo that has some of the least affordable housing in the nation.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Raymond C. Miller
Mayor

Providing Quality Services