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415.457.7656

March 18, 2018

San Rafael City Council
1400 Fifth Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901

RE: Measure A Transportation Sales Tax (item 8.a)

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

Renewing Measure A is critical to the on-going sustainability of our city and county. Measure A in large part funds our local transit, which benefits all three pillars of sustainability—our environment, economy, and social equity—and is key to reducing both climate pollution and traffic congestion. Measure A further reduces GHG emissions and takes cars off the roads by supporting viable alternatives to driving—like walking, biking, and safe routes to schools.

But Measure A was first drafted 20 years ago, and its new iteration needs to be updated in one critical regard: funding for our local roads must include the public infrastructure needed to facilitate zero emission driving, that is, charging stations and other support for electric vehicles.

Electric transportation is the transportation of the future. It is increasingly in demand, with Marin already second in the State in per-capita EV registration. And it is more and more essential, as we see the impacts of climate change intensify every year.

The revised Measure A expenditure plan recognizes these climate impacts by including funds “to address sea level rise and resiliency.” We ask that these funds be increased and made more flexible to include the reduction of sea-level-rise impacts by reducing greenhouse gas pollution with greater support of electric vehicles (including cars, buses and e.bikes).

The 30-year term of the revised Measure A will take us to 2050. That’s the year that Marin County predicts local sea level rise may reach up to two feet, with storm surges approaching five feet. 2050 is also the year that scientists everywhere—and San Rafael’s own Climate Change Action Plan—say we must reach the goal of at least 80% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to avoid unstoppable climate catastrophe.

Let’s make sure that the renewed Measure A provides us the means to help prepare for and shape that future.

Sincerely,

William Carney
Board President

c: Dianne Steinhauer, TAM