

Measure E Oversight Committee

Committee member comments regarding FY 2023- 24 Operating and Capital Improvements Budgets

April 20, 2023

Committee member Barajas requested to potentially fund 1-2 positions in Public Works solely dedicated to pothole repairs, while also developing a master plan for facilities and sidewalks. Committee member Barajas also requested to reduce the 12% reserve fund by 1-2%.

Committee member Kennedy requested departments seek federal funding allocations and apply for those grants. Committee member Kennedy requested for ADA projects to be sought via federal funding opportunities.

Committee member Mora requested funding be allocated towards sidewalks and street repair based on the feedback received from the community at the public safety workshops.

Committee member Lara emphasized that public safety is more than policing, it is adding lighting, fixing streets, sidewalks, and deferred maintenance investment for future funding. Committee member Lara emphasized he would like for the funding from this revenue source to return to supporting the Public Works Department.

Chair Huerta was absent at the meeting but submitted his comments regarding funding allocations:

Chair Huerta proposes reducing the Economic Contingency Reserves from 12% to 10% and using those funds to recruit (incentive pay) the best possible candidates for the Salinas Police Department. This is an on-going cost supported by on-going revenues. A larger SPD staff will reduce employee overtime costs and can benefit all residents. Chair Huerta proposed using those funds for data-proven crime prevention programs. This is an on-going cost supported by on-going revenues. These programs can help residents make choices that benefit our neighborhoods and community.

Chair Huerta recommended using available one-time funds for a state-of-the-art fire station in District 5. The funds can be used for acquisition of land, design and construction, and operation of the building. The new fire station will reduce traffic issues near N. Main Street and W. Laurel Drive.

Chair Huerta recommended using available one-time funds for street and sidewalk repairs, traffic calming, and safety crosswalks on an equitable basis. Funds should be distributed via a master plan based on need, not an equal amount per district.