

**Written Comments for
Regular Public Comment Section**

- Non Agenda Items
- Consent Agenda

From: Jeremy Levine <jlevine@hlcsmc.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 11:46 AM
To: Dave Pine; Warren Slocum; Ray Mueller; David Canepa; Noelia Corzo; CEO_BoardFeedback
Cc: Tony Bayudan; Gina Quiney; Marci Dragun; Marisol Escalera Durani; Cassandra Matter; Bill Silverfarb; Linda Wolin; Randy Torrijos; Jacki Rigoni; Sam Greenberg; Susie Castoria
Subject: Re: Comment letter on Measure K spending
Attachments: 2024.5.9 Measure K Community Letter .pdf

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Pardon lack of attachment, please see letter attached.

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Jeremy Levine (he • him)
Policy Manager
Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County
(925) 451-4620

On Thu, May 9, 2024 at 11:41 AM Jeremy Levine <jlevine@hlcsmc.org> wrote:

Good morning County Supervisors,

I am writing to submit the attached funding requests for Measure K. Gia Pham of Housing Choices last submitted a copy of the letter on March 26, 2023 with eight organizational sign ons. The letter now has 18 organizational sign ons, representing the broad support across San Mateo County for pro-housing, pro-immigrant, and pro-tenant budget items.

I look forward to the Supervisors' revisit of Measure K in June.

Regards,
Jeremy

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To the honorable County Supervisors and County CFO Robert Manchia,

San Mateo County’s Measure K reallocation presents a unique opportunity to plan for the needs of the entire community. Our organizations each focus on specific priority areas, but we want to support all of our community needs. As a result, our organizations have partnered together to support proposals that will highly impact residents across the County.

The undersigned organizations support the following Measure K spending requests:

Issue Area	Why Funding is Needed	Organization
Emergency Response	Funding to maintain and improve 211 access across San Mateo County	United Way Bay Area

Housing	Streamline emergency rental assistance, move in costs, and linguistically accessible workshops focusing on housing solutions and services to people with developmental disabilities.	Housing Choices
Housing	In 2023, 35% more eviction lawsuits were filed in San Mateo County than in 2019. Eviction prevention legal services improve housing stability by keeping families in their homes and by protecting the future right to rent and easing the burdens of moving when tenants have to or want to move.	Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto
Children, Families and Seniors	Support free childcare service for farmworkers in unincorporated areas of San Mateo County, including the south coast communities	Puente
Children, Families and Seniors	Support critical social services that are greatly lacking in agricultural communities, such as free mobile service to provide laundry service to farmworkers.	Puente
Housing	Support comprehensive demographic studies of unincorporated rural communities in order to effectively engage in the Housing Element and Fair Housing Assessments.	Puente
Children, Families and Seniors	<p>In San Mateo County, where 1/3 of residents are immigrants, legal representation for people facing deportation is an essential safety-net service for children, families and seniors. Those with attorneys are five times more likely to be granted immigration relief. Stable immigration status leads to improved employment opportunities, financial and housing stability, and access to healthcare, all of which improve mental health outcomes for the client and their family.</p> <p>Funds would provide legal representation to a rolling caseload of 235 immigrants in San Mateo County facing deportation, 450 immigration consultations and help 30 immigrants complete pro se asylum applications annually, and 24/7 coverage of the county's ICE Rapid Response Hotline for same-day attorney response to county residents detained by ICE. Rapid Response involves providing legal consultations and advocating for release. Deportation defense and rapid response prevent permanent family separation by allowing</p>	Legal Aid of San Mateo County, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, Immigration Institute of the Bay Area, Pangea Legal Services, University of San Francisco School of Law, Catholic Charities, La Raza Centro Legal, Immigrant Legal

	county residents to remain in their community.	Resource Center, Faith in Action Bay Area
Children, Families and Seniors	More than a third of San Mateo County residents are foreign-born and about 55,000 are undocumented. Of those 55,000, 80% have lived in the U.S. for more than 5 years and 63% have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years. Our immigrant neighbors need accurate information on immigration laws and legal help to pursue immigration relief.	Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County, Immigration Institute of the Bay Area, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, Catholic Charities
Children, Families, and Seniors	San Mateo County's older residents need legal services to help them prepare for the future, connect them to financial support and safety net benefits, and protect them from fraud and abuse.	Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
Children, Families, and Seniors	Immigrants who obtain work authorizations are three times more likely to be employed; will likely obtain a GED or higher educational status; and will earn over 50% more than when they were undocumented. San Mateo County immigrants need multilingual and culturally responsive legal, outreach, and referral services, including immigration legal consultations and community forums to provide immigrants with information about their rights, possible pathways to legal immigration status and/or citizenship, and information about changing immigration policies.	Immigrant Legal Resource Center, Coastside Hope, Immigration Institute of the Bay Area, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, Catholic Charities, Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County, Asian Pacific Island Legal Outreach, La Raza Centro Legal, Tahirih Justice Center

Housing	Thanks to an existing funding agreement with the Housing Authority of San Mateo County, Catholic Charities is providing case management services to help hard-to-reach homeless families in the County get rapidly rehoused and gradually transition to independent living. While this effort has been instrumental in housing some of the county's most vulnerable community members, this agreement does not currently allow for security deposits or back rent, preventing some families from either accessing or remaining in housing. We respectfully request additional funding under the existing agreement to help bridge this gap and allow an additional 142 families to be stably housed annually.	Catholic Charities
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In addition to these requests, we believe Measure K funds would be effective if used to support County planning staff.

Demand on County staff will increase over the coming years. The County's current draft housing element includes a number of proposals for rezoning and other planning, such as a Pescadero Community Plan, that are essential to creating new housing opportunities. The County will need additional staff resources to implement these housing element commitments, some of which will require substantial code rewrites or community input processes. The Housing Leadership Council recommends the County allocate at least \$400,000 annually from the "housing & homelessness" bucket to support County planning staff capacity. We highly encourage staffing these processes adequately in the beginning, especially with community engagement strategies like language competency. Having a thoughtful approach to community engagement now will save substantial time and money in the future.

Due to housing element delays, the County already may lose hundreds of thousands of dollars of state grant funding that are only available to jurisdictions with compliant housing elements. Even after it eventually achieves housing element certification, the County risks becoming decertified if it falls behind on delivering its housing element policy commitments, such as major rezonings and the creation of community plans. In order to remain eligible for state funding, the County must invest in adequate staff capacity to implement all housing element programs.

Lastly, whether through Measure K or other measures like the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority bond, ideally both, we support additional funding for affordable housing preservation and production.

Together, our organizations represent thousands of residents across San Mateo County. We hope the Board of Supervisors will fund the highest-impact spending proposals.

Thank you for your consideration,

Written Public Comment(s)
for **Item No. 31**

From: Allison MacQueen Felder <allison.macqueen.felder@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 8:18 AM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Cc: Allison MacQueen Felder
Subject: Lower School Speed Limits in Unincorporated Areas

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Hello San Mateo County Supervisors,

I urge you to continue to support and urge quick action on lowering speed limits around schools in unincorporated San Mateo County.

My family uses bike/walking/public transit to go to school and work each day. [We have had several incidents \(this is only a sample\) near schools in San Mateo affecting cyclists and pedestrians, with over 600 signatures](#) Lowering speed limits is a first step towards making walking and biking to school, or even walking from a parked car to school, SAFE.

At the present moment, Safe Routes to School is really just a slogan in San Mateo County. A child biking to school was hit last October just around the block from my house (excessive speed) and I filed a police report last week with an impatient driver during our Bike to School ride in San Mateo who honked, yelled, sped into the oncoming lane to pass, and displayed a certain finger digit at children biking to school. I fear we are at a crisis point and must take action, including reducing speed limits.

Safe Routes to School needs to be more than just a slogan.

Thank you for listening,
Allison MacQueen
San Mateo Resident