



Ten Years of Progress

Measure K
Local Funds for Local Needs



SUPPORTED BY MEASURE K
**LOCAL FUNDS
LOCAL NEEDS**
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Measure K Timeline

2008-2009

The Great Recession: Tax revenue plummets as needs for such basics as food, shelter and health care rise, stressing local budgets to the breaking point.

NOVEMBER
2012

Voters pass a half-cent* local sales tax (Measure A) placed on the ballot by the Board of Supervisors. The tax measure passes with 65.4 percent of the vote. Collection of the tax began on April 1, 2013, and the Board of Supervisors began to authorize spending later that year. The tax was to sunset on March 31, 2023.

NOVEMBER
2016

Deciding to build on the progress being made with the local funds, the Board of Supervisors placed a 20-year extension of the sales tax on the November 2016 ballot, designated as Measure K in the randomized alphabet drawing. Measure K was overwhelmingly approved with 70.37 percent of the vote.

*Note: a half-cent sales tax adds 10 cents to a taxable purchase of \$20. The additional tax on a \$100 taxable purchase is 50 cents. Prescription drugs and most groceries are exempt from sales tax.



Executive Summary

To enhance transparency and accountability, the County tracks all Measure K funds and places initiatives funded by Measure K into one of seven categories:

- Public Safety
- Health and Mental Health
- Youth and Education
- Housing and Homelessness
- Parks and Environment
- Older Adults and Veterans Services
- Community Services

In addition, the County separately tracks one-time loans and initiatives that are funded at the recommendation of a member of the Board.

These initiatives are approved by the full Board of Supervisors outside of the budget process to quickly meet unanticipated needs, leverage other funding sources and fill critical service gaps. These are collectively categorized as “District Specific” or “District Discretionary” initiatives. (Note: these initiatives range from targeting specific needs within a supervisorial district to addressing countywide issues or concerns.)

In the 2021-22 fiscal year, expenditures across all initiatives totaled \$77,178,441.

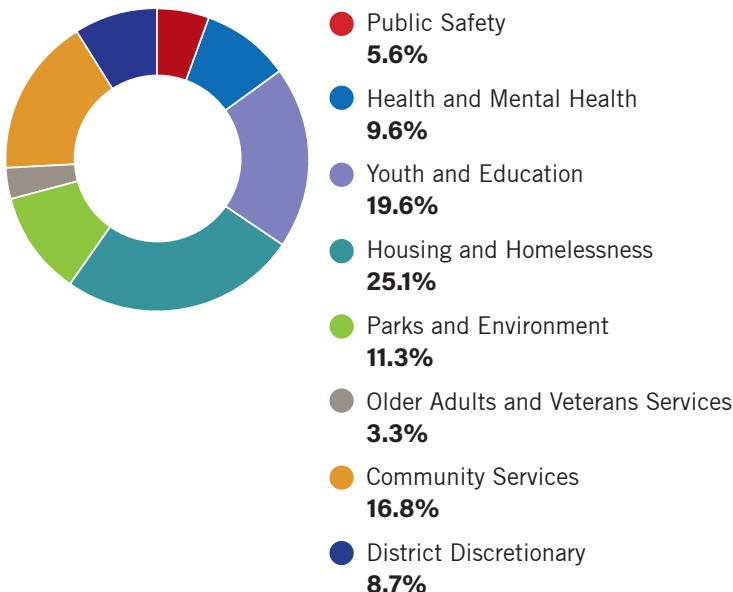
Of that total, investments in Housing and Homelessness topped expenditures by category, at \$19.39 million. Fully one quarter – 25.1 percent – of all Measure K expenditures went toward efforts to build, protect and provide housing across a wide range of incomes as well as efforts to both prevent and end homelessness.

Investments in Youth and Education followed at \$15.1 million, or 19.6 percent. The largest single expenditure in this category – \$6.7 million – went toward early learning and reading programs.

At \$13 million, investments in Community Services followed with 16.8 percent of expenditures. The single largest initiative in this category was implementation of the North Fair Oaks General Plan. This project involves major upgrades to the Middlefield Road corridor through the North Fair Oaks neighborhood, including placing utilities underground and street and sidewalk improvements.

Parks and Environment followed at \$8.7 million, or 11.3 percent; Health and Mental Health, \$7.4 million, or 9.6 percent; Public Safety, \$4.3 million, or 5.6 percent; and Older Adults and Veterans Services, \$2.5 million, or 3.3 percent. District discretionary spending totaled \$6.7 million, or 8.7 percent.

Measure K Spending FY 2021-2022 \$77,178,441



The table below represents Measure K revenues and expenditures since inception

Fiscal Year	Measure K Revenues	Measure K Expenditures
2012-13	\$4,397,205	
2013-14	\$75,577,548	\$24,113,909
2014-15	\$80,598,111	36,396,204
2015-16	\$79,888,971	\$44,081,784
2016-17	\$83,033,888	\$58,199,714
2017-18	\$89,602,981	\$88,416,871
2018-19	\$98,604,386	\$102,600,256
2019-20	\$94,078,776	\$82,407,371
2020-21	\$88,750,803	\$69,968,983
2021-22	\$109,823,249	\$77,178,441
Total	\$804,355,918	\$583,363,533



PUBLIC SAFETY

To Combat Wildfire, Reducing Fuel and Amplifying Response

As concern over wildfire grows along a warming coast, local officials are embracing two complementary tools to limit the threat: thinning vegetation to reduce risk and replacing older fire engines with new ones to fight fires once they spark.

The path to replace older fire engines with new vehicles began in June 2013 when the Board of Supervisors agreed to establish the County Fire Vehicle Replacement Fund. At the time, an inventory of County Fire vehicles averaged 16 years of use, 27 years for water tenders, “older than the recommended replacement age.”

“This is the first time we have engines specifically designed for the mountains of San Mateo County. They are made to navigate steep hills and uneven terrain while a short wheelbase allows for tight turns.”

Jonathan Cox, Deputy Chief of San Mateo County/CAL FIRE

SINCE
2015

Measure K Funds Purchases

TYPE 1 ENGINES

Fire suppression, emergency response equipped with hoses, ladder, water tank and pumps

- Engine 17: Fire Station 17, San Mateo Highlands
- Engine 18: Fire Station 18, off Edgewood Road, Redwood City
- Engine 58: Fire Station 58, Woodside & Skyline boulevards
- Engine 158: Fire Station 58, Woodside & Skyline boulevards
- Engine 59: Fire Station 59, Pescadero
- Engine 159: Fire Station 59, Pescadero

TRUCK

Equipped with long, extendable ladder for structure fires, hard-to-reach locations

- Truck 17: Station 17, San Mateo Highlands

TYPE 3 OR TYPE 6 ENGINES

Smaller, more maneuverable than Type 1 engines, for front-line wildfire suppression

- Engine 318: Fire Station 18, off Edgewood Road in Redwood City
- Engine 655: Fire Station 655, Loma Mar volunteers
- Engine 659: Fire Station 59, Pescadero

“Reducing hazardous fuel along evacuation routes is key, not only in helping reduce the potential rate of spread and flame lengths but also in allowing evacuation routes to remain passable during a wildfire event in densely populated wildland urban interface areas.”

Denise Enea, Executive Director of Fire Safe San Mateo County

Measure K funds are helping numerous public agencies accelerate efforts to reduce fire risk.

San Mateo County Parks, San Mateo County Department of Public Works, the San Mateo Resource Conservation District and Fire Safe San Mateo County have all stepped up fuel reduction projects with the infusion of Measure K funds.

Crews along a quarter-mile stretch of Guadalupe Canyon Parkway on the western edge of San Bruno Mountain, for instance, began in February 2022 to remove underbrush and saplings. A \$345,000 package of work, coordinated by Fire Safe San Mateo County, also included thinning and chipping operations in spring 2022 in the Emerald Hills community and along Highway 35 (Skyline Boulevard).

These are among dozens of projects completed or in the planning process to reduce the risk of fire in parks, open spaces and along population and evacuation corridors.



Built For the Big One, And More

When the Regional Operations Center opened in fall 2019, local officials praised the design – the new heart of the County’s disaster response can withstand violent shaking with communications, electrical and other crucial systems intact.

Yet an earthquake in fault-lined San Mateo County is seemingly one of the few calamities the ROC, as it is known, has not experienced.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit within months of the ribbon cutting.

The ROC quickly became the local response hub. Public health and other local officials held near daily briefings with state officials as they coordinated the response and helped to keep residents informed during anxious times.

Then came wildfires (the CZU Lightning Complex being by far the most devastating in decades), landslide warnings, tsunami alerts, king tides, severe weather.

Dan Belville, director of the County’s Department of Emergency Management during the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak and the CZU complex fires, said the ROC is the hub for disaster response.

“During the first stages of a crisis you need to establish clear lines of communication and determine who is doing what,” Belville said. “And just as important, we were able to eventually wind down the in-person operation for health and safety reasons due to COVID without any loss in efficiency.”

On a daily basis, the ROC houses the County’s 9-1-1 public safety dispatchers, a secure data center and the Department of Emergency Management. (Public safety dispatchers for decades had worked out of the windowless basement of the County’s Hall of Justice, which opened during the Eisenhower Administration.)





HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

“If parenting was a skillset, she would be considered gifted.”

That’s how Annie Richardson, a public health nurse, describes a client in San Mateo County Health’s Nurse-Family Partnership.

The program pairs an expectant mother with an experienced nurse who provides home visits up until the child’s second birthday. The goal is to launch mom and baby on a path to wellness.

“The Nurse-Family Partnership assists with breaking the cycle of poverty – confident mothers become knowledgeable parents who are able to prepare their children for successful futures,”

Dr. Anand Chabra, medical director of the County’s Family Health Services.

San Mateo County is one of the wealthiest counties in one of the wealthiest states. Still, roughly 5.5 percent of the county’s residents – some 40,000 people – live in what the federal government describes as poverty.

Children are disproportionately represented in the poverty numbers. And children born into poverty are at higher risk of premature birth, infant mortality, abuse, neglect and substance abuse. They are also more likely to drop out of high school and experience unemployment.

Those are outcomes that nurses like Annie Richardson work to avoid.

Her client came to the program in a typical way. She worked as a cashier, but she and her partner struggled to pay the monthly \$2,300 rent in a cramped apartment shared with another family member.

Health problems from a complicated pregnancy, a history of family trauma and other challenges bundled into what could without intervention place baby and mom at risk for numerous complications. Then, through a family member, the client learned of and enrolled in the Nurse-Family Partnership, which is voluntary and free for eligible participants.





Annie Richardson,
public health
nurse

Services offered include:

- Prenatal care, including a health and diet plan
- Educational tools to help families care for newborns, including information about breastfeeding, developmental milestones
- Coaching that helps clients with life skills, including finding employment opportunities and resources in the community

Richardson’s client is now the proud mother of a healthy toddler. The client has found a better job, is working on improving her education and is connected with mental health services. Her toddler is in quality child care and is up to date with immunizations.

“Despite a difficult past and many obstacles,” Richardson said, “she is on an admirable path, full of hope and goals towards wellness and a bright future for herself and for her child. She is proud to call San Mateo County home.”

San Mateo County’s Nurse-Family Partnership

95.8%

toddlers current with immunizations by age 2

98.1%

mothers report breastfeeding at birth and more than half continue to breastfeed at 6 months



During a Mental Health Crisis, a SMART Approach

Cities and counties across the United States are launching programs that pair law enforcement with trained crisis workers to respond to 9-1-1 calls involving mental health emergencies.

The goals are to de-escalate emergency situations and get individuals undergoing a mental health or substance use crisis appropriate care.

The County pioneered this approach with the San Mateo County Mental Health Assessment and Referral Team, or SMART program.

Since 2005, local police encountering individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis have the option to consult with a specially trained paramedic (whenever available) who can conduct an assessment and, if appropriate, provide alternatives to jail or busy emergency departments.

Developed in collaboration between multiple agencies as a community resource, the program is funded in part by Measure K and the California Mental Health Services Act.

The trained SMART medic, who drives a specially marked van or SUV (not an ambulance), can be summoned solely at the request of police for nonviolent, cooperative individuals.

When a SMART medic determines that a person does not have acute medical needs, they can transport the individual to the services they need. SMART paramedics have the option to:

- Provide voluntary transport to a facility of the individual’s choice or to one of the county’s two psychiatric emergency departments.
- Arrange for shelter.
- Take the individual to a sobering station for assessment and treatment.
- Consult with medical or psychiatric providers how to best meet the client’s needs.
- Provide referral information for continuing care.
- And explore other options to best serve the individual.



The SMART program is operated by ambulance service provider American Medical Response under a contract with County Health.



YOUTH AND EDUCATION

“The evidence is quite clear that inequality in the development of human capabilities produces negative social and economic outcomes that can and should be prevented with investments in early childhood education, particularly targeted toward disadvantaged children and their families.”

James Heckman, University of Chicago, Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences recipient

Building Blocks for Learning

“My child did not realize that she was learning — too busy having fun with science!”

These could be the words of any proud parent. In this case, they are the words of a proud parent whose daughter took part in summer enrichment activities that would be financially out of reach without The Big Lift.

The Big Lift is what's called a social venture – that is coming together of like-minded individuals and organizations to solve society's greatest challenges.

Here in San Mateo County, The Big Lift is spearheaded by the County of San Mateo, the San Mateo County Office of Education and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. The goal of this social venture is to transform early learning so that all of San Mateo County's children succeed.

Why is it Needed?

Studies found that here in the heart of Silicon Valley, fewer than half of third graders could read at the third-grade level. The rate was even lower for children whose families struggle with the high costs of housing, food, transportation, clothing and other necessities.

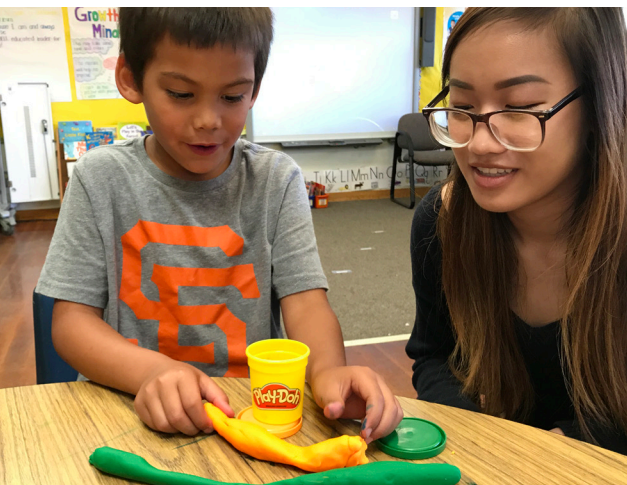
The problem doesn't begin in third grade. Children from families that cannot afford quality preschool and enrichment programs start kindergarten behind their peers. The disparity grows larger over time. But it doesn't have to.

Pillars to Success

Launched in 2013, the Big Lift includes four evidence-based key programs that work together from preschool to third grade to improve the development of San Mateo students' reading proficiency level:

- High-quality preschool: Two years of high-quality preschool for children from families with limited resources
- Inspiring Summers: Programs enabling kids to build on academic success and stem summer-learning loss
- Family Engagement: Supporting family engagement strategies that promote family-school partnering, literacy and kindergarten readiness
- Attendance: Collaborative efforts to help families understand the importance of preschool to early elementary school attendance

Big Lift programs focus on seven school districts where studies show there is the greatest need for early intervention.



Big Lift By the Numbers

- Big Lift preschool children are 23 percentage points more likely to be ready for kindergarten than children with no preschool, and those participating in specialized literacy pilots experience even larger gains
- Big Lift preschool children are entering kindergarten with the social emotional and physical development skills of their upper-income peers
- 76 percent of children in Inspiring Summers maintain or improve their reading level over summer
- Big Lift English language learners are reclassified as English proficient by third grade at double the rate of children with no preschool
- Distributed reading materials to more than 200 “Big Lift Little Libraries” across the county
- Provided developmental screenings to 85% of children in Big Lift preschools

11,305
total children served

\$30M
Measure K invested

For Youth in Crisis, Help and Hope

The numbers are staggering: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found that middle school students are as likely to die from suicide as traffic accidents. Suicide has become a leading cause of death from preteens to young adults.

Faced with that reality, the San Mateo County Office of Education leads an effort to help identify students at-risk of self-harm and suicide while training educators and others on ways to intervene effectively and connect students with the resources and services they need.

“Contrary to popular belief, talking about suicide or asking someone if they are feeling suicidal will NOT create thoughts of suicide or cause a person to kill him/herself.” – Suicide Prevention Protocol

The Suicide Prevention Protocol and accompanying trainings are a pillar of an initiative called the Coalition for Safe and Supportive Communities. It’s a collaborative, multi-agency group that formed in 2013 following the fatal shooting of 26 students and staff at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

The coalition, with support from the County’s Measure K, identifies safety needs of local youth and works across agencies. This includes developing what’s called “The Big Five: Immediate Action Emergency Response for Schools.”

The Big Five protocols provide a shared understanding of emergency response using common language across the county’s 23 school districts and 20 law enforcement agencies.

The work also involves the Suicide Prevention Protocol and the Student Threat Assessment Protocol, designed to prevent violent acts on school campus and keep all students safe.

“I think it’s saved lives, literally,” said Mary McGrath, executive director of Safe and Supportive Schools for the Office of Education. “Measure K laid the foundation for what all of this is built on.”





HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

“We’d be happy to be out of a job. We love what we do and are passionate about it. But we say this because it comes from the hope that in the future, with the dedication our team and many other community partners provide, this county will no longer have a high demand for homeless outreach services.”

De Anna Garcia, LifeMoves outreach worker

Homeless, But Not Alone

It’s about 11 on a Friday morning when De Anna Garcia walks along the abandoned railroad tracks that cross under Highway 101. Decades ago these tracks carried the freight that gave life to South San Francisco’s moniker, “The Industrial City.”

“LifeMoves outreach worker,” Garcia calls out, striving to be heard over the hum of cars and thump of trucks.

A middle-aged man wearing shorts recognizes her. He emerges from a make-shift campsite tucked tight to the bottom of the freeway, some 20 feet above the railroad tracks, and walks a precarious trail to meet Garcia and her LifeMoves outreach partner, Stephen Moon.

Over the next half-hour or so, deep in the shadows of the overpass as an icy wind steals heat from a fall sun, Garcia and Moon patiently talk with the man.

How is his health? What is he getting to eat? Small talk, about the weather, what’s going on at the encampment, located, like most, in an out-of-the-way nook of San Mateo County.

He’s a tough case, Garcia says later. He’s friendly and seems to want a helping hand, but one that extends only so far.

The outreach team works to steer this man, and those in similar circumstance, onto a pathway toward permanent housing. A first step on that pathway is frequently moving into a shelter, but he has declined because of past bad experiences.

“Right now, it’s about building relationships,” Garcia says. “Most of the people out here have experienced trauma and that trauma is very challenging to overcome.”

Moon quickly adds, “We see so much trauma, sometimes it’s overwhelming.”

But they are determined.

Moon and Garcia collaborate to help the man figure out how to schedule an eye exam at San Mateo Medical Center, an important step that will lead to free glasses. They give him a bottle of water and assorted snacks. They talk about options for his future.

“We often interact with individuals living on the street or in encampments several times before the acceptance of services,” Garcia says later. “This experience of connecting with someone, identifying immediate and short-term needs, starting with food and water, then assisting in an eye exam, is both unique and typical.

“Not only do these actions help to meet the individual’s



LifeMoves Homeless Outreach Team

Working individually or in pairs, team members work throughout San Mateo County to meet “unsheltered individuals wherever they are.”



Top: **Stephen Moon**, right, with an unsheltered individual. Bottom: **De Anna Garcia**, right, meets with fellow LifeMoves Homeless Outreach Team member **Alan Armenta**.

needs, these actions are a meaningful part of building trust between LifeMoves staff and our clients,” Garcia says.

Members of the Homeless Outreach team connect individuals to shelters, help them apply for permanent housing opportunities, and also help them connect with other resources, such as in-patient substance abuse treatment.

The County’s goal is to reach functional zero homelessness.

Functional zero is where every unsheltered homeless person who chooses assistance will be provided interim or permanent housing. For individuals experiencing homelessness who are hesitant to access services, the homeless outreach programs will continue to work to build rapport with them and continue to try to connect them with shelter and other services.

About Homeless Outreach Teams

Measure K funds help support the countywide LifeMoves Homeless Outreach team, and other funding supports additional homeless outreach programs that focus on specific geographic areas, operated by WeHOPE and Pacifica Resource Center.

Opening Doors, From Daly City to East Palo Alto

Just off Highway 101, near some of the most expensive real estate in the nation, apartments that will house some of the most vulnerable individuals and families in San Mateo County are taking shape.

Light Tree Apartments in East Palo Alto will provide 185 affordable apartments to families with low incomes, people with disabilities, formerly homeless individuals and former foster youth.

It’s the latest of dozens of projects from Daly City to East Palo Alto to utilize the County’s Measure K funds to provide housing that is affordable to a range of incomes.

Light Tree is being developed by Eden Housing, a nonprofit focused on high-quality, affordable communities that advance equity and opportunity.

Eden’s vision for Light Tree Apartments was to transform a 3-acre site with a cookie-cutter 1960s apartment complex into a high-performance property that includes:

- New HVAC, mechanical, and electrical systems
- All electric utility services
- New solar photovoltaics system
- New drought-tolerant landscaping
- New elevators
- EV charging stations

The complex will also include a basketball half-court, play structure, community garden, laundry rooms and parking.

The County’s investment of \$982,842 in Measure K funds helped to demonstrate the project’s feasibility and attract – or leverage, in the parlance of housing finance – additional public and private money. This includes \$20 million from the state’s Sustainable Communities Program, as well as funds from other sources.





PARKS AND ENVIRONMENT

Through stewardship, San Mateo County Parks preserves our County's natural and cultural treasures, and provides safe, accessible parks, recreation and learning opportunities to enhance the community's quality of life.

County Parks Mission Statement

At about 1.3 miles, this trail isn't much to break a sweat over. It's got some ups and downs, some twists and turns, for sure. But the pavement is smooth, the path wide.

But the views.... Blue ocean. Pounding surf. Vertigo-inducing cliffs. Wildlife. Sealife.

This is the Devil's Slide Trail, clinging to the far left edge of North America. It almost seems hard to believe that less than a decade ago this former segment of Highway 1 was busy with cars and trucks.

The opening of the Tom Lantos Tunnels in 2013 allowed motorists to bypass this dizzying drive. That shift freed up and old highway for a major makeover that now ranks as a destination hike in many guides ("a glorious pathway" with "edge of the world views" are just some of the accolades).

The conversion from highway to pathway – the trail opened in March 2014 – was made possible in large part because of the County's half-cent sales tax, which helped to pay for grading, repaving, signage and amenities. It's one of numerous projects administered by County Parks that have benefited from an infusion of funds.

Measure K Funding

- Coyote Point Recreation Area Improvements: Playgrounds (3), Picnic areas and restrooms
- Flood Park landscape plan
- Renovation of the historic Sanchez Adobe
- New restroom & shower buildings, water treatment & delivery systems, renovated camp sites (fire pits, tables) and much more at Memorial County Park, the oldest park in the County Parks system
- Restoration of the Wunderlich Park carriage house
- Visitor Center improvements: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Memorial Park & Sam McDonald
- Expansion of Ranger led interpretive programs, in park, community (schools, libraries) and on-line for all ages
- Stewardship Corps (volunteers, staff managed) on-going habitat restoration projects (Pillar point bluff, San Bruno Mountain, Wunderlich, San Pedro Valley)
- Fuel reduction (numerous locations)



The fact that a County Parks Department even exists is due in large part to voters' approval of the local tax for local needs.

The County's overall budget suffered following the global economic crisis that hit in 2008. To cut costs, the Board of Supervisors merged Parks into the Public Works Department.

Funding provided by Measure A, the original countywide half-cent sales tax approved by voters in November 2012, allowed the Board to return Parks to a stand-alone department and to launch numerous projects to maintain and improve a parks system visited by millions of people a year.



Closing the Gap

The waterfront just south of the Dumbarton Bridge offers a rare oasis amid the bustle of Silicon Valley.

Wooden platforms above the marshy earth offer 360-degree views, the pale blue of the bay contrasting with the browns and greens of the hills. It's a delight for birdwatchers who come to the Ravenswood Preserve to see dowitchers, avocets, great blue herons, pelicans and more.

Access to this serene setting greatly improved in 2021 with the opening of a 0.6-mile spur of the San Francisco Bay Trail. The spur fills what was a short but vitally important missing link in a trail network that now connects the preserve (and the 350-mile Bay Trail network) with East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and beyond.

"This small-but-mighty new trail provides a critical missing link in the San Francisco Bay Trail and a vital connection to nature for the community," said Ana Ruiz, general manager of the Midpeninsula Open Space District, which manages the Ravenswood Preserve.

"With just a short walk along the trail, you can quickly escape the buildings and traffic and enter a completely different world surrounded by nature, vast open views and the iconic San Francisco Bay,"

Ana Ruiz, general manager of the Midpeninsula Open Space District

The newly constructed trail segment can be accessed safely from a new sidewalk along University Avenue in East Palo Alto. An easy-access paved pathway, bridge and a raised boardwalk with an overlook and interpretive signs connect to Ravenswood Preserve.





OLDER ADULTS AND VETERANS SERVICE

In the last year alone the County Veterans Service Office has helped County veterans receive more than

\$2.7 million in retroactive payments

More than \$4.3 million in on-going
annual payments from the VA

A Veterans Journey “A Shining Light”

For Tim Green, the first notion that something wasn't quite right came during a family member's funeral.

“It didn't understand,” he said, “why people cry at funerals, why they have emotions. I was confused.”

By then, Green had been an integral part of hundreds of funerals as a “body bearer,” a member of an elite Marine Corps unit. Their mission: perform flawless funerals for Marines and Marine family members, including infants and children, in Arlington National Cemetery and surrounding civilian cemeteries.

Training taught him to turn off emotions and show no expression during these solemn ceremonies. He performed the duty with honor and pride.

The trouble, though, is those same skills do not translate well to personal relationships and to jobs in the private sector. After leaving the Marines in 1977, Green spent years struggling with a wall he had put up between himself and the world around him. “I was numb,” he said.

Fast-forward.

Green was married, an older father with two young children. He knew he had to quit the pills he took to suppress the recurring nightmares of death and grief, his mind incorporating his children into the dreams and dying.

In 2013, Green went to his first Marine Corps reunion. He realized he wasn't the only former Body Bearer with struggles. He began to take a step toward finding help.

The winding path eventually led him to Mike Lacson, himself a former Marine and now a member of the San Mateo County Office of Veterans Services. Lacson asked the right questions and helped connect Green with the benefits he earned during two years of active and two years of reserve duty.

At 66, Green the other day took time out to talk about his experiences. He pulled over on a road in the Santa Cruz Mountains to speak on his cell phone on a beautiful fall day when he was scouting locations for mountain biking.

His advice for other veterans?

“Ask as many organizations as possible for help. And look for that top 5 percent performer like Mike Lacson with the knowledge, experience, dedication, motivation and desire to help veterans to get through the labyrinth that is the VA.... It was a shining light in the decades of darkness that has been my recovery.”



Tim Green, left, with **Michael Lacson**, a County Veterans Services Representative

Measure K funds support the County's Veterans Services Office and its programs and initiatives.

In 2014, the County's landmark "Veterans Needs Assessment" – a blueprint to linking veterans with the benefits they earned – was among the first wave of investments of the half-cent sales tax. The assessment was updated in 2021.

Established in 1946, the County of San Mateo Veterans Services Office helps veterans access state and federal benefits that they and their family are entitled to. CVSO staff are accredited by the California Department of Veterans Affairs to represent veterans in the claims process.

The CVSO also provides information and referrals to a wide range of services including housing, employment, and training. The CVSO does not charge any fees for any services and our services are available to all veterans and their family members.



See, Stop, Prevent: Dependent and Older Adult Abuse

San Mateo County's older adult population is expected to grow by more 70 percent by 2030 as the Baby Boomer generation ages. About one out of every five residents is expected to be over 65.

That growing population prompted the creation of what's called the Elder and Dependent Adult Protection Team.

It's a partnership between County Health, the District Attorney's Office and the County Attorney's Office to protect dependent and older adults from abuse in San Mateo County.

Abuse can be financial, physical, emotional or sexual and can also include neglect or isolation. Signs and symptoms can appear as someone not being cared for, having unexplained bruises, being depressed or anxious or having unusual bank account activity.

It's better to call and be wrong than be right and do nothing.

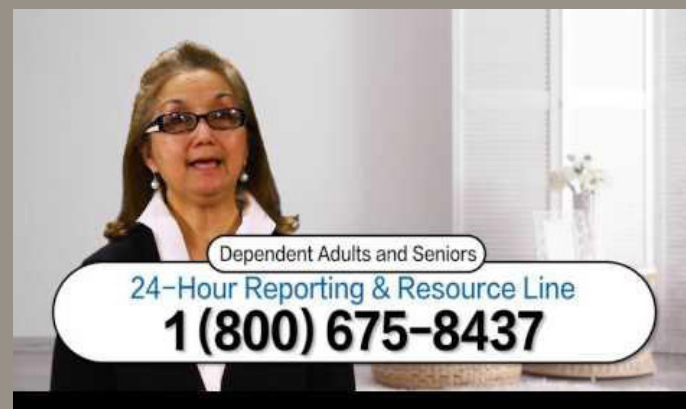
There are many signs that mean someone needs your help. These signs do not always mean the person is being abused or neglected, but they may be clues that something isn't right.

Call the Aging and Adult Services Hotline 1-800-675-8437 or 1-844-868-0938 and a trained staff member can analyze the signs all while keeping your information confidential.

By forming a team-based approach, the County brings together experts with three basic objectives:

- Streamlining and facilitating the investigation and prosecution of elder and dependent adult abuse
- Coordinating supportive services to victims
- Raising awareness through targeted outreach to the community and training for potential responders

The initiative is made possible with annual Measure K funding.





**COMMUNITY
SERVICES**

Libraries for the Digital Age

Local school teacher Rue Randall Clifford rode a horse through the streets of a young South San Francisco (before it was known to the world as “The Industrial City”) to gather signatures to support building a library. Her work paid off: industrialist turned philanthropist Andrew Carnegie gave the young city \$10,000 to build its first free public library, which opened on Grand Avenue to great fanfare in 1916.

A century later, the library still bursts with year-round activities, from cultural celebrations to makers events. The building underwent a major interior renovation in 2016 to modernize the space and make it more versatile in the digital age with multiple data and power outlets and computers for public use.

To help make the renewal possible, the County provided South San Francisco with Measure K funds that were combined with grants and local sources. The payoff is a modern library with a large collection of Spanish-language materials located in one of the most diverse neighborhoods on the Peninsula.

Since 2013, County Measure K funds have contributed to the following library project:

\$500,000

Half Moon Bay Library
(planning)

\$300,000

Brisbane
(planning)

\$100,000

San Mateo Main
Library (children’s area
renovations)

\$1 Million

Fair Oaks (Redwood City)
(renovations)

\$100,000

Daly City Serramonte Branch
(ADA, other improvements)

\$900,000

South San Francisco Grand
Avenue (renovations)



The new Brisbane Library was dedicated to the community on Oct. 24, 2020.

Measure K funds have also contributed to planning for new libraries in East Palo Alto and Pacifica.

Together, the investments showcase a commitment that ensures all residents have access to knowledge, technology and the tools needed to succeed in the 21st century.

For instance, the redesigned and renovated Fair Oaks Branch Library reopened in Redwood City in June 2018.

Features include a teen space, a bilingual farmers market-style interactive play area, more power outlets and new children’s furniture, shelving, comfortable seating, carpet, upholstery and more. The project also expanded the library from 3,200 square feet to 3,800 square feet.



Opened in 2018, the Half Moon Bay Library, for instance, is designed to be cozy, warm and inviting. Features include:

- An expanded collection of materials, from bilingual books and DVDs, to streaming movies and WiFi hotspots
- A collaborative makerspace that includes 3D printers, a high-performance laser cutter, GoPro camera kits, and sewing, quilting, and embroidery machines
- Ample access to technology, including 24 desktop computers and 42 laptops
- An expansive children's room with a special children's entry and four interactive play columns that reflect forces in nature in the sky, land, and sea



Clifford, riding her horse through South San Francisco's streets, could never have foreseen the technological advances that shape our world. But she would no doubt appreciate the continued dedication to libraries. (In 1986, Clifford was posthumously inducted into San Mateo County's Women's Hall of Fame and the California Library Hall of Fame in 2018.)

WiFi for All

Here in the heart of Silicon Valley, many families lack a tool crucial to their child's education, to landing a job, to connecting to news and information: high-speed Internet access.

And the challenge of finding affordable Internet service disproportionately affects individuals and families with the fewest resources, according to the Pew Research Center.

The County believes that providing high-speed Internet access is the 21st century equivalent to building roads.

In 2014, the County launched SMC Public WiFi to build out this infrastructure and provide these modern on ramps to the resources available online. In addition to servicing unserved and underserved communities, SMC Public WiFi supports educational opportunities for students, spurs local economic development, and provides greater access to County services.

Today, with the assistance over the years from Measure K funds, the County provides nearly 400 public access points where WiFi is available for free. These locations range from the Doelger Senior Center in Daly City to Martin Luther King, Jr. Park in East Palo Alto and from Pacifica to Pescadero.

SMC Public WiFi is a part of the County's Digital Equity Portal, its name an acknowledgement of the commitment to providing digital equity.

"You intentionally made sure that you were focused on black and brown children, the marginalized population who are not able to connect because of the means of not being able to afford Wifi," said Gina Sudaria, superintendent of the Ravenswood City School District. "Thank you for making sure that each and everyone one of our children are able to stay connected and have their needs met."

SMC Public WiFi by the numbers:

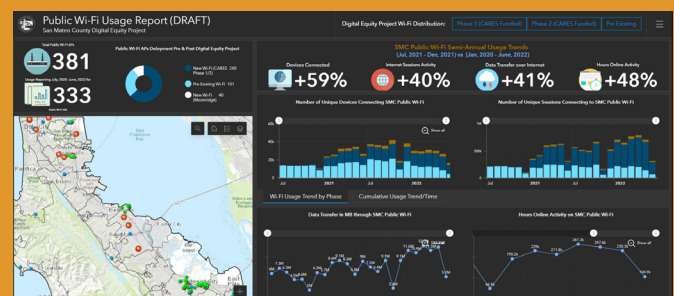
30,000
devices

connected to
SMC Public WiFi

247,000
hours

online activity on
SMC Public WiFi

Data for April 2022



Measure K Oversight Committee

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