



County of San Mateo

Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Department: COUNTY MANAGER

File #: TMP-1473

Board Meeting Date: 2/27/2018

Special Notice / Hearing: None

Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager
Subject: County Manager's Report #3 of 2018

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept this informational report.

BACKGROUND:

This report will provide you with updates on a variety of County initiatives focusing on Public Safety, Health and Human Services, Community Services and Performance, in addition to reports on legislation and issues that require your action. We also will keep you and the public informed about new services, upcoming events and general updates.

DISCUSSION:

Health and Human Services

As part of a statewide campaign to help families get ahead, the Human Services Agency is encouraging residents to check their eligibility for the California Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). In 2017, San Mateo County residents were refunded \$598,000 through the credit which returns money back to qualifying working families and individuals. California is one of 24 states, plus the District of Columbia, that offer a state EITC to supplement the federal credit. The program also offers free tax preparation through United Way. Residents can verify their eligibility and calculate their refund at caleitc4me.org.

Community Services

Housing seeks federal grant to simplify second unit process

The Department of Housing (DOH) hopes to secure up to \$500,000 in federal grant funding to develop innovative ways of simplifying the permitting process and construction of second units in San Mateo County. Fannie Mae's "Innovation Challenge" commits \$10 million over two years to unique proposals for increasing access to safe, affordable housing in sustainable communities. DOH applied in the first of three phases which focuses on the intersection of affordable housing with economic development and employment. The proposal "Simplifying Secondary Units" meets Fannie Mae's objectives by creating naturally occurring affordable housing and stabilizing housing in rapidly

gentrifying neighborhoods. The creation of rental income and new skilled jobs also helps build wealth and spur new business models.

Housing is the lead applicant for the grant on behalf of itself and three collaborators: Hello Housing which will pilot a one-stop shop to help homeowners from vision through occupancy and serve as a liaison between the homeowner and permitting authorities; the University of California which will evaluate the impact of the one-stop shop and capture stories from participants; and, the Bay Area Council which will use its “Building the Workforce of the Future” initiative to train the county’s disconnect populations, including youth, in the field of second unit construction.

Fannie Mae will announce the awards in May or June. A second funding round will be released later this year and the final round in 2019.

PCE offering outreach grants to nonprofits

Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE), the county’s lower-cost energy provider of clean energy, is piloting an Outreach Small Grant Program to local nonprofits for efforts to inform residents about savings on their electricity bills and continued eligibility for discount programs. PCE is particularly interested in collaborating with organizations working with low-income residents, seniors, residents in the northern county and customers who have low English language proficiency or are eligible for Medical Baseline discounts because they have a life-saving medical appliance at home.

Since its creation in 2016 by the County and its 20 cities, PCE has enrolled almost all residents and businesses. PCE will save San Mateo County customers an estimated \$17 million annually and eliminate the emission of 307,000 metric tons of greenhouse gasses each year. But PCE understands that customers may not immediately spot those potential savings from their individual energy bills which is why PCE is launching this grant effort to help demystify the documents. Applications are due March 9 and are available at

[<https://www.peninsulacleanenergy.com/resources/small-grants/>](https://www.peninsulacleanenergy.com/resources/small-grants/)

Measure K

County staff view project progress first hand

Staff from the County Manager’s Office recently toured several projects funded by Measure K with two goals: check on the progress and to see first-hand how local funds are meeting local needs. Stops included the new Skylonda Fire Station under construction to replace Fire Station 58. Grading and interior work is underway at Woodside Road and Skyline Boulevard where parked outside was the new Engine 58, which was purchased with Measure K funds and replaced a 1997 engine. At Wunderlich County Park, staff reviewed maintenance and improvement projects that include work on the horse arena and trail repairs. It’s worth noting that signs at Wunderlich’s parking lot advertise the County’s free weekend parks shuttle, also funded by Measure K.

On the coast, staff visited Cabrillo Farms, where Measure K funds helped to pay for new housing for low-income farmworkers. Farmer Dave Lea, who grows Brussels sprouts and other vegetables on the farm north of Half Moon Bay, told the group that high housing costs are a major obstacle to maintaining a local agricultural workforce and, by extension, a supply of locally grown produce. My staff will now schedule similar for the Measure K Oversight Committee.

News, Events & Updates

New website consolidates elections, assessor-county clerk-recorder

Two websites previously housing content from the offices of the assessor-county clerk-recorder and

elections are now consolidated into a singular new site that increases accessibility and usability for all visitors.

The new site, www.smcacre.org <<http://www.smcacre.org>> increases accessibility to visually impaired and disabled individuals. Google Translator, offered in 10 languages, is featured prominently as well as an online search tool. The goal is providing real-time access to an array of information and data in an easy-to-find location. As the department states in the motto of its 2020 Strategic Plan: “People first.” The site replaces the previous pages, www.smcare.org <<http://www.smcare.org>> and www.shapethefuture.org <<http://www.shapethefuture.org>>.