



Memorandum

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Mayor Sam Liccardo
Councilmember Raul Perez
Councilmember Lan Diep
Councilmember Devora Davis
Councilmember Johnny Khamis

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: September 7, 2018

Approved

Sam Liccardo *Lan Diep* *Devora Davis* *Johnny Khamis* *Raul Perez* *9/7/2018*

SUBJECT: MEASURE T—DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE BOND

RECOMMENDATIONS

Approve the Staff's proposed project categories for Measure T, the November 2018 Disaster Preparedness, Public Safety, and Infrastructure General Obligation Bond Measure.

BACKGROUND

As the staff memorandum explains, San Jose has a \$1.4 billion backlog of unmet or deferred infrastructure repair and replacement needs. Our roads, fire stations, bridges, and emergency communications infrastructure are increasingly aging, deteriorating, or obsolete, and decades of budgetary constraints have prevented us from investing sufficiently in their replacement. The City would require \$112 million in new funding annually to repair and maintain our existing infrastructure in a safe condition, and that cost grows dramatically if we do nothing.

The very substantial amount of this bond—\$650 million—pales in comparison to the crippling cost of future neglect. As we experience the increasing frequency of natural disasters in our state—from wildfires to floods, in addition to ongoing earthquake risk—it becomes readily apparent that we must invest in our public safety-related infrastructure, or our residents will suffer a severe human toll. Last year's floods, which devastated hundreds of our families, provides us with Exhibit A.

We appreciate Staff's quick work on establishing this critically important expenditure list. Although the early calculations already reveal that nearly all of these priorities will benefit our General Fund budget, a deeper analysis will likely reveal that over the long run, we'll find even greater long-term budgetary savings (e.g. in owning rather than leasing police training facilities, or in shortening daily emergency response driving routes) by investing today.

By adopting this expenditure plan, we will not address all of the City's infrastructure needs, but we will confront the most urgent needs for our safety, by upgrading, repairing, and rebuilding an emergency communications center; fire stations (such as the long-awaited Station 37); buttressing earthquake-vulnerable bridges; reducing floods by utilizing cost-effective natural rainwater retention basins; and repaving our most deteriorated roads.

San Jose voters appear willing to make these investments, and we would do well to adopt the staff recommendation without substantial amendment.