



Memorandum

TO: RULES AND OPEN
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: Mayor Sam Liccardo

SUBJECT: GENERAL OBLIGATION
BOND (MEASURE T)

DATE: November 7, 2018

APPROVED:

DATE: 11-7-18

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the City Manager to:

1. Revise Proposed General Obligation Bond Project Categories (included as Attachment A to the City Manager's September 11, 2018 Memorandum) to read as follows:
 - Preserve "Build Fire Station 37" as a priority project
 - Supplant "Rebuild/relocate or build two Fire Stations, including property acquisition" with:
 - "Build at least two new fire stations, including property acquisition, or conversion of existing City land," and
 - "Rebuild/ relocate fire stations 8 and 23, including property acquisition or conversion of existing City land."
 - Supplant "Public Safety Headquarters Infrastructure Needs" with "Police Headquarters Infrastructure Needs"
2. Pursuant to the 2015 SJFD Strategic Business Plan, accelerate the development of a Facilities Master Plan that addresses fire station location, along with staffing and budget impacts, within 12 months (Goal #2, 9.4 Infrastructure and Support). The Facilities Master Plan should include specific timelines for the construction and rehabilitation of each of the new and rehabilitated fire stations called for under Measure T.
3. Within 60 days of the certification of the election results, return to Council with:
 - i. A timeline for the implementation and funding of staffing/operations of Fire Station 37, with commencement of construction within 18 months
 - ii. Timeline of construction of the next new fire station, with the purchase of land for the next new fire station within 24 months, and design and construction thereafter.

Discussion

I'd like to thank the many community members, leaders, and organizations that came together to enable the passage of Measure T, including a unanimous City Council. The voters have approved the largest general obligation bond in San Jose history, and future generations will benefit from the timely investments in our public safety and infrastructure. I'd also like to thank many members of the City team, including Public Works Director Matt Cano, Fire Chief Robert Sapien, City Attorney Rick Doyle, and City Manager Dave Sykes, whose efforts make this measure possible.

After extensive discussions with the Fire Chief, City Staff, and Local 230 leadership, it has become apparent that ambiguity in the Council-approved GO Bond Project Categories list left many with the impression that the "Public Safety Headquarters" might more specifically include an SJFD administrative headquarters. There emerged a concurrence of thought that such dollars would be better spent on expanding SJFD's reach and improving emergency response time by constructing new fire stations in parts of San Jose least well served by our current configuration.

These changes appear wholly consistent with the language of the ballot measure, the intent of the Council, the assertions made by the campaign to the public, and the understanding of the voters. Most importantly, these changes will best allocate our scarce public dollars in a way that will improve public safety and emergency response in our neighborhoods. I encourage their approval.