

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-17
(Calling of Special Election for Voter Approval to Augment Local Sales Tax for Transportation Purposes)

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors ordains as follows:

SECTION I. SUMMARY. This ordinance calls a special election, at the request of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, referred to as the “Authority,” for the purpose of submitting to the voters for approval an additional one-half of one percent sales tax for the transportation projects and programs described in the tax ordinance and county transportation expenditure plan adopted by the Authority on July 20, 2016.

SECTION II. RECITALS AND FINDINGS. This ordinance is made with reference to the following recitals and findings:

Local highway and transportation improvements in Contra Costa County are needed to address countywide mobility needs and alleviate traffic congestion that threatens the economic viability of the area and adversely impacts the quality of life in the County.

To manage current and future local transportation maintenance and improvement needs, local jurisdictions need to develop and implement local funding programs that go significantly beyond current federal and state funding, which is inadequate to resolve these problems.

It is in the public interest, under the Local Transportation Authority and Improvement Act (Public Utilities Code Section 180000 and following), to allow the voters in Contra Costa County to implement a new retail transactions and use tax (sales tax) ordinance to raise additional local revenues for a transportation expenditure plan that funds transportation improvements and maintenance and meets local transportation needs in a timely manner.

In 1988, voters in Contra Costa County passed Measure C, which created a one-half cent sales tax for 20 years to support transportation programs and projects. In 2004, voters approved Measure J, which extended the transportation sales tax for an additional 25 years beyond the previous expiration date.

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On May 18, 2016, the Authority authorized the release of a proposed Transportation Expenditure Plan, *Transforming Contra Costa County, Our New 30-Year Transportation Expenditure Plan*, to the County, cities and towns to consider, among other matters, establishing an additional countywide one-half of one percent sales tax for 30 years to increase the funding of transportation projects, subject to approval by the qualified electors on the November 8, 2016 ballot.

As of July 12, 2016, all of Contra Costa County's nineteen cities and towns representing 100 percent of the incorporated area population, and the County Board of Supervisors, have approved the Transportation Expenditure Plan prior to its final approval by the Authority Board.

On July 20, 2016, the Authority Board approved the Transportation Expenditure Plan and requested that the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors call a special election for the purpose of submitting Authority Ordinance No. 16-03, authorizing the additional one-half of one percent sales tax, to voters on the November 8, 2016 ballot.

SECTION III. CALL OF SPECIAL ELECTION. At the request of the Authority, pursuant to Public Utilities Code sections 180201 and 180203, the Board of Supervisors hereby calls a special election for the purpose of submitting the following proposition to the voters of the incorporated and unincorporated territory of Contra Costa County for approval:

"To implement a Transportation Expenditure Plan to continue:

- Repairing potholes/fixing roads;
- Improving BART capacity/reliability;
- Improving Highways 680, 80, 24, and 4;
- Enhancing bus/transit including for seniors and people with disabilities;
- Increasing bicycle/pedestrian safety;
- Improving air quality;
- Reducing traffic;

shall voters adopt the ordinance augmenting the sales tax by ½%, raising ninety-seven million dollars for transportation improvements annually for 30 years with independent oversight, audits, and all money benefitting local residents?"

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SECTION IV. CONSOLIDATION. As requested by the Authority in Authority Resolution 16-41-P, the election shall be consolidated with the Statewide General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

SECTION V. CONDUCT OF ELECTION. Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 180203(b), the County Clerk (Elections Clerk) shall conduct said election in the same manner as provided by law for the conduct of special elections by a county.

SECTION VI. SAMPLE BALLOT AND VOTER HANDBOOK. Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 180203(c), the sample ballot to be mailed to the voters shall contain the full proposition, as set forth in Section III of this ordinance, and the voter information handbook shall include the entire adopted county transportation expenditure plan and the tax ordinance (Authority Ordinance No. 16-03) referred to in Section II of this ordinance.

SECTION VII. ELECTION COST. Pursuant to Public Utilities Code section 180203(a) and Authority Resolution 16-41-P, the Authority shall reimburse the County for all costs of conducting said election, including those relating to consolidation of the election.

SECTION VIII. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance becomes effective immediately upon passage and within 15 days after passage shall be published once with the names of supervisors voting for and against it in the EAST BAY TIMES, a newspaper published in this county.

PASSED on August 9, 2016 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST: David Twa, Clerk of the Board
of Supervisors and County Administrator

By: _____

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Deputy Clerk

Board Chair

[SEAL]

RJH

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