

Language Access Equity for Measure X Meetings - \$50,000 (One-time) and \$25,000 (On-going)

Ensuring equitable language access to Measure X Community Advisory Body (MXCAB) meetings is a priority for this advisory body.

At the May 18, 2021 meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved up to \$50,000 in contractual services with Continental Interpreting for interpretation and translation services for all MXCAB meetings. This resulted in two live Spanish interpreters and two live American Sign Language interpreters for all MXCAB meetings and Spanish translation of MXCAB agenda packet materials (minimally the agendas). MXCAB meetings demonstrated community participation of both Spanish speaking and deaf or hard of hearing residents and/or community advocates, who often spoke during public comment.

Continuing efforts to remove language barriers for those who live, work, and pay taxes in Contra Costa County, and are unable to communicate effectively in English because their primary language is not English or are deaf or hard of hearing, will support the MXCAB's operating principles of fostering inclusion, equity, and access.

An allocation of \$50,000 is estimated to provide two live Spanish interpreters and two live American Sign Language interpreters for all MXCAB meetings, as well as Spanish translation of MXCAB agendas and packet materials as requested. In future years, the MXCAB will meet quarterly. An on-going allocation of \$25,000 will be sufficient to fund the body.

Recommendation:

The County Administrator's recommendation is that the interpretation services be fully funded with a one-time allocation of \$50,000 and an on-going annual allocation of \$25,000.