

July 20, 2021

Measure X Advisory Board
c/o Lisa Driscoll
County Finance Director

Re: Allocation of Measure X revenues

Dear Board Members,

Not a week goes by that we are not confronted by news of another neighborhood, city or entire region hit hard by climate-related events: wildfires, flooding, rising tides, extreme heat. As you well know, those effects fall most heavily on lower-income communities.

For that reason, I urge the Board to recommend the allocation of Measure X revenue to actions that will help communities adapt to climate impacts, and that will mitigate their ultimate cause by supporting clean energy programs and electric vehicle infrastructure.

Climate impacts harm individuals and communities in less direct ways than fires or rising sea levels. Fossil fuel-related industries will gradually shut down or transform their production. Job losses will surge and cities' tax revenues will shrink. Measure X funds, therefore, I ask that Measure X funds also be allocated to programs that support economic transitions for those most affected.

There is no shortage of mature programs and new initiatives to which this support can be directed. I can think of no better way to apply the millions of dollars that taxpayers will pay in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Nick Despota

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "nick despota", written in a cursive, flowing style.

Contra Costa County Sustainability Commission
Citizens Climate Lobby

Richmond, California