



**City of Belvedere
City Council Meeting
Consent Calendar
Monday, April 8, 2024**

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Robert Zadnik, City Manager
Helga Cotter, Director of Administrative Services

Subject: **Item No. 7.A. – Discussion and Possible Action on a Funding Request for the Martha Property**

Recommended Motion/Item Description

Consider the Trust for Public Lands (Trust) funding request for a financial contribution towards its purchase of the Martha Property and give direction to staff as to the amount, based on the Finance Committee's recommendation of up to \$125K, to be included in the FY2024-25 Operating and Capital Budget.

Background

On March 26, 2024, the Finance Committee convened a Special Meeting to hear a request from the Trust for Public Lands for a contribution from the City to help purchase the Martha Property. For timing reasons, the Trust needs a decision on the City's commitment by mid-April, but payment is not required until next fiscal year. The Finance Committee, therefore, reviewed the request within the context of the City's Draft Preliminary FY 2024-25 Operating and Capital Budget and made a recommendation on how much the City could afford to contribute while still meeting its other budgetary obligations.

Findings

Based on the preliminary budget for next year and the associated forecast, the Finance Committee recommended that the City Council consider contributing up to \$125,000 to the Trust for Public Lands for the Martha Property acquisition, which is all the City can reasonably afford. The City's budget outlook is constrained due to a 7.5% increase in the Tiburon Fire Protection District (TFPD) contract fee and several large capital projects, limiting the availability of discretionary funds. That said, the preliminary budget does anticipate a discretionary payment of \$185K to TFPD related to Section 115 Pension funding, which could be deferred. Although the payment is discretionary at this time, it will need to be realized in the next few years.

The Committee also acknowledged the project's importance to the community. In 2022, Measure M, the bond and special tax measure introduced to help fund the Martha Property acquisition, passed with a 78% majority vote. The Measure M Community Facilities District comprises all Belvedere properties and a portion of Tiburon properties.

Fiscal Impact

If the council approves the recommendation, the City will only be able to make a partial payment on its \$185K deferral with TPF. The remainder will be pushed out to a future year. There is no fiscal impact in the current fiscal year since the funding obligation would be a part of the FY 2024-25 Operating and Capital Budget. However, committing this future funding to the Trust means that the City will lose flexibility in the future in the use of these resources.

Recommendation

Consider the Trust for Public Lands (Trust) funding request for a financial contribution towards its purchase of the Martha Property and give direction to staff as to the amount, based on the Finance Committee's recommendation of up to \$125K, to be included in the FY2024-25 Operating and Capital Budget.