



May 18, 2020

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San Rafael City Council  
1400 Fifth Avenue  
San Rafael, CA 94901

**RE: Measure A and Capital Improvement Program**

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers,  
Sustainable San Rafael has reviewed the proposed FY 2020 -21 expenditure plans for Measure A Parks and Open Space and for the City's Capital Improvement Program. Where dedicated revenue streams are already in place, we generally support the public works proposed both for their inherent value to the community and also for the economic stimulus they represent in these hard times.

Items of particular benefit are the continuation of significant Third Street improvements funded by the original TAM Transportation Measure A, the innovative improvement of bicycle access along West Francisco between Second Street and Rice, and the completion of pedestrian improvements along East Francisco.

We also note the importance of completing the Open Space Measure A-funded Park and Recreation Master Plan, which, among other benefits, should provide timely guidance for ecologically sound vegetation management of San Rafael's open spaces to reduce potential wildfires.

One project that needs serious reconsideration is the Caltrans work at the Highway 101 northbound ramp exit to central San Rafael. We understand that this \$20 million State expenditure would replace the bridge here at the same elevation as the current roadway, without regard to already critical sea level rise and flood threat to this essential transportation link. That is clearly an unacceptable expenditure, and we request the City to use its influence to avoid this waste of public funds and insist on a revised plan responsive to climate impacts.

In general, with the possibility of federal economic recovery dollars becoming available for infrastructure improvements, we suggest that all Capital Improvement projects be reviewed for their potential to move quickly to 'shovel-ready' status. An example of such a project is the North Merrydale Promenade improvements noted in the CIP as nearing conceptual approval.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William Carney  
President