

THANK YOU SAN PABLO!

A LETTER FROM MAYOR CECILIA VALDEZ

To the Residents and Voters of the City of San Pablo:



CITY OF SAN PABLO
City of New Directions

On behalf of the San Pablo City Council, I wanted to take this opportunity to personally thank our residents, especially registered voters, for their tremendous support on the recent passage of the City of San Pablo's Measure Q Sales Tax Measure. As a result, ALL San Pablo residents will benefit!

San Pablo had a record turnout for Measure Q which garnered the second highest voter support (73.56%) of all eleven (11) state-wide city-supported sales tax funding measures placed on the June 5th State-wide ballot in California. This success is directly attributed to San Pablo residents, such as yourself, who understand the critical issues facing City officials, and who are willing to partner with us in making certain that we maintain a desirable quality of life for ALL San Pablo residents. You have my heartfelt appreciation.

The total revenue to be generated by Measure Q will be approximately \$6M over the next ten years with \$800,000 annually over the first five years, then reduced to \$400,000 annually for the remainder of five years after which the sales tax measure expires. In the coming months, the City Council will establish an independent audit committee comprised of at least five (5) community at-large members to monitor the Expenditure Plan for the revenues generated through Measure Q. As promised, this new revenue stream will help maintain critically needed municipal services, such as public safety (gang prevention), youth services, and job training for our disenfranchised to combat the City's nearly twenty percent (19.6%) high unemployment rate.

Primarily, Measure Q will assist the City Council's efforts to ensure that the City will keep in place existing City services that are presently being provided, and expand services where needed. Furthermore, under Measure Q, the total sales tax will remain below what it was on June 30, 2011, when a state-wide sales tax expired [9.25%], and will be lower than in surrounding cities (i.e. Pinole and Richmond = 8.75%, El Cerrito = 9.25%). Above all, this revenue cannot be taken by the State of California to solve their budget problems; in other words, these monies will remain here in San Pablo to benefit you and ALL residents of our City!

I just want you to know that the City of San Pablo appreciates your consideration and understanding during this difficult economic time period which was demonstrated by your willingness to support this important sales tax measure in order to ensure that vital City services being provided for our residents remain in place. Again, thank you again for your tremendous support to the City and community of San Pablo!

Sincerely:


Cecilia Valdez
Mayor

Date: August 16, 2012

cc: City Manager Matt Rodriguez