

# Memo

**To:** Leah Benz

**From:** Shirlee Zane, Chair, Measure O Citizen's Oversight Committee

**cc:** Members of Committee, Chair James Gore, Board of Supervisors

**Date:** April 6, 2022

**Re:** Fiscal Documents for Allocations of Measure O

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Ms. Benz, after our conversation last night you encouraged me to write out what the Oversight Committee for Measure O will need in order to fulfill our constitutional oath. Each of us took an oath to provide citizen oversight for how the tax dollars collected are being appropriated for mental health services, substance abuse and homelessness.

During a robust discussion at our February 9 meeting the committee made it clear that we needed information on the programs and services and how much money was allocated over what time frame, and how was the money being used to improve these services.

We received fiscal spread sheets with insignificant information (and confusing) at the twelfth hour, yesterday, after waiting for two months for them. To say this was disappointing is an understatement.

I have been writing and reading fiscal documents for over 25 years of my career, and the members of the committee have extensive experience with fiscal oversight. We simply cannot do our job of fiscal oversight with such little information that says almost nothing about the programs or how the new funding stream of taxes is being used.

This is what we need:

- 1) How much Measure O funding was allocated to the program over what time? Are the dollars for new programs or to fill substantial funding gaps in present programs? If it is an existing program, then how will the service be improved with the Measure O tax dollars?

2) How is that money being distributed? What does "Other Direct Expenses and Administration" mean? Please be specific. Does that mean that the funding will cover management salaries?

3) How many new staff members' salaries are being covered in the allocation?

4) "Plus" was written in the Department column on most items. What does plus mean? If these are going to several nonprofits, then please tell us who.

5) If they are remaining in the Health Department, then tell us why and to which program or services.

6) Program impact (and goals) should be spelled out clearly in each allocation. One spreadsheet had some information on program impact, but more was needed.

The information that the staff provided the committee should be clear, concise, complete and transparent. These fiscal documents make it impossible for us to fulfill our constitutional duties to assure that the taxes collected are spent appropriately. If a member of the public cannot discern from this information how the money is being spent, then we have failed in our duties.

I respectfully request that the staff return to the drawing board and create expenditure and program impact information that will support the role of the committee as citizens who are guarding and ensuring that these additional taxes are spent to address the insufficient services that now exist with mental health, substance abuse and homelessness.