

April 23, 2019

Board of Directors  
Transportation Agency for Monterey County  
55-B Plaza Circle  
Salinas, CA 93901

Dear Board of Directors:

In November 2016, voters of Monterey County passed Measure *X* to help pay for regional and local transportation projects and programs in the Transportation Safety and Investment Plan. A Citizen Oversight Committee was established to serve as an additional check and balance to ensure full compliance with the requirements of Measure X funds on eligible projects by local participating governments.

This diverse Committee is responsible for confirming that funds are spent in compliance with the Transportation Safety and Investment Plan by reviewing the independent annual audit of Measure X and by examining compliance documents provided by the County of Monterey and its twelve municipalities.


Although Measure X was eventually approved, almost a third of the voters in Monterey County voted against it, perhaps lacking confidence that taxpayer money would be accounted for and spent properly. This number of NO voters is significant and the Oversight Committee takes its responsibility, and their concerns, extremely seriously.

On April 19, 2018, the Committee Chairman sent a letter to participating local municipalities warning them against willful misuse of Measure X funds or failure to provide appropriate reports and audits. They were warned that these violations would result in an Oversight Committee recommendation that the TAMC Board of Directors withhold further funds until that local jurisdiction came into full compliance and/or had repaid the misused funds. This was followed by a similar letter from Executive Director Debra Hale to the jurisdictions. (See attached letters).

We were dismayed to see several situations in 2017-2018 where jurisdictions either missed their deadlines, submitted inaccurate reports or failed to submit compliance reports at all. The resulting confusion made it difficult for the Oversight Committee to obtain accurate information in a timely manner and was surprising to us in light of the warning letters clearly stating the necessity of full compliance.

We do, however, understand that this was the first year of full compliance reporting with the resulting learning curve for all concerned. While we have made some reasonable allowances for jurisdictions this year, the Oversight Committee will expect full and timely compliance in 2020.

To this end, the Oversight Committee will continue to work closely with TAMC staff in implementing any protocols that can be helpful in obtaining accurate information in a timely manner. It is extremely important to us that the public continues to receive full assurance that TAMC, the County of Monterey and the participating cities are operating consistent with the terms of the Ordinance.

Respectfully,  
  
Paula Getzelman, 2019 Chair  
Measure X Citizens Oversight Committee