



**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
JULY 17, 2008**

SUBJECT: SALES TAX MEASURE

ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE STATUS REPORT ON SALES TAX MEASURE

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file report on the status of the Sales Tax Measure.

ISSUE

At the June 2008 Board meeting, the Board reviewed the draft ordinance and expenditure plan for the proposed sales tax. Board members have requested information on the requirements to put a measure on the November 4, 2008 ballot. This report provides an outline of these requirements and an overall status of the sales tax measure effort.

DISCUSSION

Consolidation with General Election

There are several key actions that must occur to place a measure on the upcoming ballot for the November election. Following are the filing requirements and related deadlines:

Resolution		
July 24	Consider Board adoption of Sales Tax Measure ordinance and Resolution Requesting consolidation with the November General Election	The adopted resolution must to be submitted must include: 1) a purpose of the election (i.e. submitting a sales tax measure question to electors); 2) ballot measure text; 3) the vote requirement for measure passage (i.e. 2/3 votes cast); and 4) a statement that "the District will reimburse the County for costs incurred". The ballot measure text must not exceed 75 words including the title and must be clearly labeled and identified in the body of the "Resolution Calling the Election". This is the text that will be printed in the sample ballot.
August 8	Last day to submit the ordinance and resolution to the County of Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and the Board of Supervisors	

Withdrawal or Amendment		
August 13	Last day to submit a resolution requesting to amend or withdraw measure	The request to amend or withdraw the measure must also be in a form of a resolution similar to the initial request.
Letter Designation		
August 13	Last day to request specific letter designation	The Registrar Recorder/County Clerk will assign a letter designation to each measure in alphabetical order. A district is allowed to request a specific letter designation by written correspondence. If it has not been assigned to another measure, the request will most-likely be granted. The Registrar Recorder's office recommends submitting two alternate letter choices in the event the requested letter(s) have been assigned to another measure.
Arguments & Rebuttals		
August 18	Last day to submit arguments for or against any district measure	Arguments for or against a measure or rebuttals must be submitted by August 18th and 28th respectively. Arguments may be no longer than 300 words in length. Rebuttals may be no longer than 250 words in length. Rebuttals must include authorizations signed by the original authors for the argument.
August 28	Last day to submit rebuttals by authors of arguments for or against a district measure	
Sample Ballot		
Sep. 25 – Oct. 14	Period that a sample ballot will be mailed to all voters	

Sales Tax Measure Ordinance

As noted above, the Board must submit the ordinance and request for consolidation by August 8, 2008. County Counsel retained the law firm of Reed & Davidson, LLP to provide specialized legal advice regarding the proposed sales tax measure and assisting in drafting a sale tax ordinance. The July Board meeting is the last opportunity to approve the ordinance and resolution calling for an election at a regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Expenditure Plan

A key element of the ordinance is the Expenditure Plan. The Plan is currently being revised to reflect and merge the concerns we have heard from the Board, the subregions and State legislators. Comments being incorporated include requests for more detail on the included highway projects and an analysis of geographic balance based on a population and employment. The Plan will be presented to the Board as an attachment to the ordinance at the July Board meeting.

AB 2321 (Feuer)

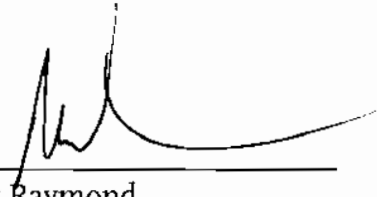
AB 2321 is still pending in the legislature. The bill has been referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 4th. We are working with the author to ensure that

the Board's actions on July 24th are consistent with AB 2321. It is important to note that if the legislature makes substantial changes to AB 2321 after the Board acts on July 24th that are inconsistent with the ordinance, this could invalidate our sales tax efforts.

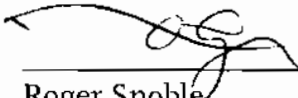
NEXT STEPS

Staff will present the ordinance, including the expenditure plan for approval at the July 2008 Board meeting. Staff will also present for adoption the resolution requesting that the sales tax measure election be consolidated with the November 4, 2008 General Election. A request to amend the FY09 budget to cover additional election costs not budgeted will be presented for approval in July as well. We will continue to work with legislative staff to monitor the progress of AB 2321 and provide a status report to the Board.

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