

**From:** Brian Trautwein <btrautwein@environmentaldefensecenter.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 9, 2023 12:18 PM  
**To:** Paula Perotte; Kyle Richards; Stuart Kasdin; James Kyriaco; lreyesmartin@cityofgoleta.org  
**Cc:** City Clerk Group  
**Subject:** City Manager Department Fiscal Year 2023-24 Annual Work Program

Good Afternoon Mayor Perotte, Mayor Pro-Tem Richards, and Councilmembers,

The City Manager Department Fiscal Year 2023-24 Annual Work Program Workshop is slated for today.

We want to take this opportunity to remind Councilmembers how important Goleta's creeks and watersheds are to City residents.

Creeks and watersheds provide clean water for our aquifers and beaches, serve as recreational and educational amenities, and offer places for people and families quiet areas within our City to experience nature. Creeks and watersheds serve as habitat for a multitude of wildlife, birds, and fish, including the southern California steelhead which is one of the most endangered species of fish in America, red-legged frogs, and other imperiled wild animals. They act as important wildlife corridors connecting the Los Padres Forest with the Goleta Slough, Devereux Slough, coastal open spaces, including the Ellwood Mesa, and beaches. Creeks and watersheds carry flood waters safely to the ocean. They also create scenic backdrops for our beautiful and City. Goleta's streams flow through and unite diverse neighborhoods, bringing people from all walks of life together.

That is why protecting creeks and watersheds, including implementation of the Creek and Watershed Management Plan ranks so high as a priority for all City residents.

Please keep this in mind as you conduct the City Manager Department Fiscal Year 2023-24 Annual Work Program Workshop today and when you consider City priorities and departmental budgets.

Thank you,

**BRIAN TRAUTWEIN (he, him, his)**  
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March 09, 2023

To: The Mayor and Council Members  
130 Cremona Drive, Suite B  
Goleta, CA 93117

Subj: Concerns RE: Agenda Item “A.1 23-106 City Manager Department Fiscal Year 2023-24 Annual Work Program,” meeting date March 09, 2023

- Ref. (1) Workshop Report for Agenda Item “A.1 23-106 City Manager Department Fiscal Year 2023-24 Annual Work Program,” meeting date March 09, 2023  
(2) Workshop Report for Agenda Item “A.2 23-098 General Services Department Priority Setting Workshop – Fiscal Year 2023/24 Annual Work Program,” meeting date March 09, 2023  
(3) Workshop Report for Agenda Item “A.3 23-129 Neighborhood Services Department FY 2023-24 Annual Work Program,” meeting date March 09, 2023

Dear Madam Mayor and Council Members:

City of Goleta Voters who voted in favor of Measure B2022 were under the distinct impression that they were voting for the items presented in: A) The “Arguments in Favor of Measure B2022, (see screenshot below),” B) The “Rebuttal to the Arguments against Measure B2022 (see screenshot below),” and C) City of Goleta’s Website RE: Measure B (see <https://www.cityofgoleta.org/your-city/city-clerk/election-2022/measure-b2022> and below):

#### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE B2022

Goleta voters are asked to approve an increase of one penny on the dollar to its sales tax. Without it, the City is unable to fully maintain its infrastructure investments and accomplish other recognized priorities that our residents deserve. Over time, road quality has deteriorated, and without additional revenues, it will continue to worsen, with the costs of restoring the roads increasingly more expensive. Critical projects like western Goleta’s Fire Station 10 have been delayed because of lack of funding.

Goleta’s limited revenue has delayed other priorities, including renovating Lake Los Carneros, restoring creeks, repairing the Community Center, and establishing safe routes to schools for bicycles and pedestrians. Furthermore, public safety costs are rising.

Why are we in this situation? Unlike other cities, Goleta does not receive its full share of the taxes that it’s due. Because of the Revenue Neutrality Agreement, a condition of Goleta cityhood, every year the County takes almost \$7 million, and rising, of Goleta’s taxes. The City has persistently worked to end this arrangement and will continue to do so. Additionally, Goleta has the lowest sales tax rate of cities in the County.

## Rebuttal to Argument Against Measure B2022

**Major vital projects and services needed by Goleta residents are under-funded, as acknowledged even by opponents.** For example, Goleta's deferred maintenance backlog for pavement and road repairs, already at \$42 million, will grow to an estimated \$78 million in just 10 years.

There is no mystery about how new revenue would be spent because unfunded projects and services are well documented in Goleta's two-year budget. These include maintaining and upgrading roads; improving Community Center, pedestrian, and bicycle infrastructure; supporting local businesses; maintaining parks and open spaces; supporting the library; and restoring creeks.

**The sales tax won't go into effect until 2024.** By then the economy will likely have significantly improved. If instead we continue deferring vital projects, we'd be passing major debt along to future generations. If voters wish to end the tax, it can be changed through the same, democratic process of enacting it: a ballot measure.

**The tax would have modest impacts on Goleta residents and businesses, while providing substantial community benefits.** Essential items are exempted from the tax such as: gasoline, grocery food, prescription medications, and rent. Neighboring cities

“Funding from Measure B could be used to:

- Pave streets, remove potholes, and improve traffic safety
- Address homelessness
- Clean and maintain public areas
- Repair and upgrade aging local infrastructure
- Clean and maintain local creeks and coastal waters
- Support public safety programs and maintain 911 response
- Conserve water by increasing use of recycled water to irrigate parks and fields
- Improve access to affordable housing
- Maintain services for low-income senior citizens and other residents in need
- Support local businesses and help them retain the workforce to fill jobs
- Support and expand afterschool programs and affordable early childhood/childcare programs.”

However, per Ref. 1, the Staff Workshop report lists the following top three priorities (see screenshot presented below) in particular with no mention in the above arguments and City website of funding for the “Economic Development Strategic Plan.” Additionally, Ref. 1 identifies: a) “The Economic Development Program involves creation and implementation of the Economic Development Strategic Plan and staffing the Economic Development and Revitalization Committee (see page 10),” b) Complete the community driven Economic Development Strategic Plan and presented it to Council by June 2023 (see page 13), and c) “Oversee the implementation of the objectives identified in the Economic Development Strategic Plan in coordination with Neighborhood Services and Finance. April 2023 (see page 15).”

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### Screenshot of Ref.1, Page 3.

#### **FISCAL IMPACTS:**

The Annual Work Program for Fiscal Year 2023-24 is largely consistent with the current adopted budget with respect to existing positions, departmental structure and the level of work commitments, including consultant or outside vendor resources. It also lays the groundwork for the next budget cycle assuming a continuation of existing staff resources.

It should be noted that Council has identified the following priorities for new Measure B funds that will directly likely affect the City Manager Department in coming years:

- Economic Development Strategic Plan Implementation
- Childcare Programs
- Public Safety and Emergency Response (Fire and Sheriff)

In addition, with the new Measure B funding in the City's operational departments (Public Works, Planning and Environmental Review, Neighborhood Services, General Services) there will be impacts to all administrative departments and divisions, including the City Manager Department, to support increases in staffing, contractors, and financial activity in those departments. We anticipate that most of the impacts of these new opportunities will be reflected in the City Manager's Department Fiscal Year 2024-25 work program.

Furthermore, Public Comments Received in favor of Measure B2022 at the June 14, 2022 City Council meeting primarily centered on employing Measure B revenues to: 1) Support the maintenance of parks and open spaces, and 2) Support the maintenance of creeks and watersheds. Additionally, I clearly remember watching a City Video of the Director of Public Works speaking on the absent and much needed funding to support our pavement rejuvenation program which is another key component as to why Measure B passed. Plus, the facts presented above equally apply to Ref. 2 and Ref. 3.

As such, why was the Economic Development Strategic Plan (the "Plan") not a part of any City arguments or responses in favor of Measure B, and it appears the Plan is an unknown entity as well as a work in-progress scheduled for completion in June 2023. Why is developing the Plan a top three priority? Hopefully the Plan will contain funding for all of the items listed in the City's Measure B arguments, responses, and website, specifically funding for the long awaited maintenance of the City's infrastructure.

In short, City of Goleta voters who supported Measure B voted in favor of this Measure based upon the available information disclosed by the City in advance of voting. At first glance, it most certainly appears that the City has a completely new priority, the Economic Development Strategic Plan, with economic expansion and increased City Staffing as a part of the new Measure B funding goals without the promise to properly fund the maintenance of: 1) Goleta's existing infrastructure, 2) Parks and open spaces, and 3) Creeks and watersheds.

Respectfully,

David Gaughen