

MEASURE



INVESTING IN NATURE

Fiscal Year 2016/2017

Annual Measure Q Status Report

A Summary of Measure Q Revenues, Expenditures, and Projects

Mission and Vision of the Open Space Authority

The Open Space Authority conserves the natural environment, supports agriculture and connects people to nature, by protecting open spaces, natural areas, and working farms and ranches for future generations.

Our Vision, Our Valley, Our Future

We envision the Santa Clara Valley and its surrounding hillsides as a beautiful place where a vibrant network of interconnected open spaces, trails, wildlife habitats and thriving agricultural lands enrich the region's cities, making our Valley an exceptional and healthy place to live, work, learn and play.

In our vision of the Santa Clara Valley:

- A well-managed network of open spaces, farms and ranches sustains our natural heritage and provides resilience to a changing environment
- All members of our community are aware of the values of nature and have convenient access to local recreational and environmental education opportunities
- Our drinking water is safeguarded by protecting our local creeks and watersheds, from their headwaters in the surrounding hills to the Bay
- Community investment in nature--and the essential benefits that nature provides--sustains and enhances a healthy environment and economy
- The rich heritage of the Valley's agriculture is thriving, with locally grown foods contributing to healthy communities and creating a sense of place and pride in our region
- The Open Space Authority contributes to the region's quality of life by building and sustaining public and private partnerships in all our communities

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

Board of Directors

District 1 – Alex Kennett

District 2 – Mike Flaughner

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Andrea Mackenzie

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Matt Freeman

Director of Administration and Finance

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SCI Consulting Group

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Introduction

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About the Measure Q Parcel Tax

Since its creation in 1993, the Authority has protected over 22,000 acres of open space and natural areas, preserving the natural beauty and health of the area, and protecting the region's agriculture, water resources, air quality, wildlife and scenic views for residents today and future generations. As the region continues to grow, protecting hillsides and open spaces become increasingly important to the community.

In November 2014, voters approved the Measure Q parcel tax, authorizing the Authority to levy a tax of \$24 per parcel annually for 15 years. The tax was designed to produce an estimated \$7,883,760 per year in additional revenue for the Authority to continue protecting and preserving new open space and agricultural areas, protecting and restoring natural areas that buffer our rivers, lakes, and streams, maintaining existing Open Space Preserves, constructing new trails and infrastructure on the Preserves, and increasing the number of environmental education experiences.

Annual Measure Q Status Report

In order to ensure accountability, transparency and public oversight of all funds collected and allocated under Measure Q and in compliance with Government Code Sections 50075.1(d) and 50075.3, an annual report is provided to the Authority's Board of Directors on or before January 1 of each fiscal year. The purpose of the report is to explain (1) the amount of funds collected and expended under Measure Q and (2) the status of the projects authorized to be funded by Measure Q.

The financial data provided in the report is derived from the annual independent audit. The project status information is a summary of the Measure Q projects conducted in the same fiscal year. The Authority's fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 of each year. The *Measure Q Status Report* is prepared by Open Space Authority staff and submitted to the Authority's Board of Directors.

The Measure Q Expenditure Oversight Committee (MQEOC), appointed by the Board pursuant to Measure Q, also receives a copy of the Status Report as an informational item. The Committee reviews the Status Report alongside the independent financial audit to provide an independent review of all revenues and expenditures of Measure Q Funds and submits a recommendations and oversight report to the Board.

FY 2015/2016 MQEOC Oversight Report

In February 2017, the MQEOC presented the first Annual Measure Q Oversight Report to the Authority's Board of Directors. Their report summarized the findings of the MQEOC and provided recommendations regarding the reporting of revenues and expenditures of Measure Q for the 2015/2016 fiscal year.

On October 12, 2017 the Administration and Budget Committee reviewed the MQEOC's recommendations and prepared a response to be presented to the Board. At their meeting on October 26, 2017, the Board reviewed and considered each recommendation set forth by the Committee and discussed the responses recommended by the Administration and Budget Committee.

To see the complete response to the Annual Measure Q Oversight Report, please refer to [Appendix B](#).



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SECTION I: Revenues and Expenditures Summary

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Financial Summary for Fiscal Year 2016/2017

This section provides a summary of the financial information as presented in the Authority’s independent financial audit conducted by Chavan and Associates, LLP for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. The complete audit can be found on the Authority’s [website](#).

Revenues

As determined by SCI Consulting Group, the Authority’s parcel tax administrator, the Authority collected \$7,878,204 in gross parcel tax levies. The Santa Clara County Assessor’s Office collects one percent (1%) of the gross revenue as a fee. As summarized in the financial audit, the Authority received and recorded \$7.80 million in net parcel tax revenues in fiscal year 2016/2017.

Table 1: Measure Q Parcel Tax Revenues		Amount
Gross Parcel Tax Levies		\$7,878,204
SCC Assessor’s Fee (1%)		(\$78,782)
TOTAL NET REVENUES		\$7,799,422

Expenditures

On June 9, 2016, the Authority’s Board of Directors approved the annual budget for the Measure Q fund for fiscal year 2016/2017. The Authority budgeted expenditures at \$7,892,042. Actual expenditures for all Measure Q expenses in FY 2016/2017 were \$5,825,490.

The following table shows the summary breakdown of total Measure Q expenditures by program as presented in the independent financial audit.

Table 2: Measure Q Expenditures by Program		Amount
Measure Q Projects (Section II)		\$5,182,920
-Capital outlay		
-Planning		
-Field Operations and Maintenance		
-Community Engagement		
Measure Q Urban Open Space Grant Program (Section III)		\$162,824
Measure Q Expenditure Oversight Committee Costs (Section IV)		\$7,053
Administrative Costs (Section IV)		\$393,910
SCC Assessor’s Fee (1%)*		\$78,782
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$5,825,490

*The Santa Clara County’s Assessor’s Office withholds 1% of the Measure Q Parcel Tax revenues collected on behalf of the Authority. This fee is deducted from the first deposit in January 2017.



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SECTION II: Measure Q Projects and Expenditures for FY 2016/2017

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Measure Q Projects

The Measure Q Expenditure Plan ([Appendix C](#)) states that the Open Space Authority will fund high priority projects distributed throughout the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority's jurisdiction. The projects were identified through a public process that created a vision of conservation for the Authority. The vision plan developed by the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, called the *Santa Clara Valley Greenprint*, identifies high priority open space and natural resource lands as identified in the Plan.

Expenditure Plan Categories

All projects funded by Measure Q fall into at least one of the Expenditure Plan Categories (EPC) described in the Expenditure Plan. In Fiscal Year 2016/2017, the Authority expended a total of \$5,182,920 on Measure Q projects.

The four Expenditure Plan Categories in which Measure Q projects fall under are:

EPC #1 Protect Open Space, Redwood Forests, Wildlife Habitat, Scenic Hillside and Agricultural Land

Projects categorized under this program include acquisition of land and conservation easements from willing sellers in priority areas such as those in the Coyote Ridge, Upper Pajaro River, and Santa Cruz Mountains Conservation Focus Areas, as well as coordination of protection efforts through the development of policy frameworks, conservation strategies and tools, and resource management and use plans for open spaces and wildlife habitats.

In this reported fiscal year, the Authority expended \$3,698,932 on projects under this category.

Table 3: EPC #1 Projects

Project Number	Project	Funds Expended in	Status
P-000019	Priority Land Acquisition Projects	\$ 63,718	In Progress
P-000105	Mobedshahi Conservation Easement	\$ 256,236	Completed
P-000107	Pfeiffer Acquisition	\$ 259,903	Completed
P-000118	Leung Acquisition	\$ 1,868,169	Completed
P-000131	Pravettoni Acquisition	\$ 814,052	Completed
P-000023	Santa Clara Valley Greenprint Update & Decision Support Tool	\$ 4,253	In Progress
P-000024	Coyote Valley Conservation Strategy	\$ 163,228	In Progress
P-000025	Regional Conservation Investment Strategy	\$ 21,936	In Progress
P-000026	SCC Climate and Protection Program (CAPP)	\$ 102,098	In Progress
P-000027	Santa Clara Valley Greenprint Implementation Funding/Grant Research	\$ 5,587	In Progress
P-000048	Coyote Valley Communications Strategy	\$ 43,431	In Progress
P-000112	Conservation Easement Monitoring	\$ 5,599	In Progress
P-000124	GIS Program Development	\$ 3,673	In Progress
P-000125	PG&E Easement Coordination on Coyote Ridge	\$ 6,972	In Progress
P-000126	High Speed Rail Planning and Coordination	\$ 15,384	In Progress
P-000130	Food System Alliance/Ag Conservation Strategy	\$ 1,294	Completed
P-000135	Young Ranch Environmental Impact Report Review	\$ 507	Completed
P-000007	Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program Development	\$ 14,398	In Progress
P-000011	Vegetation Management Programmatic Environmental Review	\$ 461	In Progress
P-000014	Develop Fire Management Program	\$ 9,748	On Hold

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P-000017	5-Year Resource Management Strategy	\$ 604	On Hold
P-000021	Coyote Valley Landscape Linkages	\$ 5,309	In Progress
P-000120	Mitigation Application - California Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$ 2,724	Completed
P-000123	Natural Resource Policy and Planning	\$ 12,763	In Progress
P-000127	Coyote Valley North Meadow Burn	\$ 2,920	On Hold
P-000134	Coyote Valley Bobcat and Gray Fox Study	\$ 12,214	In Progress
P-000158	Coyote Ridge Grazing Improvements	\$ 1,751	In Progress
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR EPC 1		\$ 3,698,932	

EPC #2 Protect Land around Creeks, Rivers and Streams to Prevent Pollution and Improve Local Water Quality and Supply

Projects categorized under this program include coordinating efforts to protect local water supply and quality, and restoration and capital improvements.

In this reported fiscal year, the Authority expended \$283,918 on projects under this category.

Table 4: EPC #2 Projects

Project Number	Project	Funds Expended in FY 16/17	Status
P-000010	Blair Pond Repair	\$ 56	On Hold
P-000013	Coyote Ridge Pond Restoration Project	\$ 764	In Progress
P-000015	South Valley Meadow Enhancement Project	\$ 223,173	In Progress
P-000009	Pond Infrastructure Assessment and Engineering Design	\$ 15,914	Completed
P-000018	Memorandum of Understanding with CDFW Work in Stream Channels	\$ 107	In Progress
P-000022	Coyote Valley Water Resource Enhancement Feasibility Study	\$ 43,904	In Progress
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR EPC 2		\$ 283,918	

EPC #3 Open, Improve and Maintain Parks, Open Space, and Trails

Projects categorized under this program include planning and opening for new open space preserves, designing and constructing new public access facilities on existing preserves, and providing science-based environmental education programs designed and created organically or through partnerships. This program also funds daily operation, management, and stewardship of the Authority's existing lands and public access facilities.

In this reported fiscal year, the Authority expended \$1,200,070 on projects under this category.

Table 5: EPC #3 Projects

Project Number	Project	Funds Expended in FY 16/17	Status
P-000016	Pajaro River Agricultural Preserve Strategic Plan	\$ 24,374	In Progress
P-000028	Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve Public Access Plan	\$ 4,652	In Progress
P-000031	Pea House Demolition	\$ 39,187	Completed
P-000032	Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve ADA Trail	\$ 21,383	In Progress
P-000033	Dexter Canyon Bridge Replacement	\$ 45,026	On Hold
P-000034	New trail at Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve	\$ 70,770	In Progress
P-000035	Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Equestrian Lot Performance Evaluation	\$ 3,174	On Hold
P-000036	Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve Public Access Plan: Blair Trail	\$ 440	In Progress
P-000121	5-Year Capital Improvement Plan	\$ 12,360	In Progress
P-000155	El Toro Open Space Preserve Management and Planning	\$ 1,229	In Progress
P-000038	Youth Engagement Programs	\$ 3,132	In Progress
P-000040	Monthly Land Stewards Program	\$ 10,662	In Progress
P-000041	Implement Plan to Provide Transportation to Preserves	\$ 8,735	In Progress
P-000043	Environmental Education Program	\$ 120,947	In Progress
P-000044	Mobile Nature Center	\$ 882	In Progress
P-000045	Understanding Our Communities Phase II	\$ 12,018	In Progress
P-000046	Deep Engagement Communities Partnership Plan	\$ 5,370	In Progress
P-000087	Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 105,362	In Progress
P-000088	Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 172,300	In Progress
P-000089	Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 19,417	In Progress
P-000090	Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 221,699	In Progress
P-000091	Diablo Foothills Open Space Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 21,651	In Progress
P-000092	Little Uvas Open Space Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 12,741	In Progress
P-000093	Palassou Ridge Open Space Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 29,035	In Progress
P-000095	Pajaro River Agricultural Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 14,092	In Progress
P-000096	Santa Teresa Foothills Open Space Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 12,561	In Progress
P-000097	Upper Uvas Open Space Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 12,929	In Progress
P-000098	Mount Chual Open Space Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 17,542	In Progress
P-000099	El Toro Open Space Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 23,721	In Progress
P-000136	Loma Fire Response and Restoration	\$ 112,428	In Progress
P-000156	Pajaro River Agricultural Preserve Clean Up	\$ 17,053	In Progress
P-000157	Winter 2017 Storm Repairs	\$ 23,198	In Progress
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR EPC 3		\$ \$1,200,070	

EPC #4 Urban Open Space, Parks and Environmental Education Program

As structured by the Measure Q Expenditure Plan, a grant program would be established, with monies set aside to assist municipalities, schools and applicable non-profit organizations within the cities of Milpitas, Santa Clara, San Jose, Campbell, Morgan Hill and urban County areas to create healthy and safe open space and park areas for their communities. Funds are made available through an annual grant allocation process that is subject to approval by the Authority's Governing Board of Directors.

More information regarding expenditures under this category is provided in Section III.

Please refer to [Appendix C](#) of this report for the full Measure Q Expenditure Plan.

Information about the Conservation Focus Areas referred to in the acquisition and land conservation projects and about the Authority's conservation vision can be found on the Authority's website: [Santa Clara Valley Greenprint](#).

Expenditures by Project

As stated in the Measure Q Expenditure Plan, Authority Staff are required to file a report with the Board of Directors on the status of projects that received Measure Q funds for the fiscal year being reported.

In Fiscal Year 2016/2017, the Authority reported on over seventy individual projects. As of June 30, 2017, the Authority completed the following projects:

Table 6: Completed Projects	
Project Number	Project Description
P-000031	Pea House Demolition
P-000105	Mobedshahi Conservation Easement
P-000107	Pfeiffer Acquisition
P-000118	Leung Acquisition
P-000120	Mitigation Application - California Department of Fish and Wildlife
P-000130	Food System Alliance/Ag Conservation Strategy
P-000131	Pravettoni Acquisition
P-000135	Young Ranch Environmental Impact Report Review

Due to the confidential nature of the ongoing negotiations, expenses incurred for all current acquisition projects are reported under P-000019 (Priority Land Acquisition Projects). Descriptions and a breakdown of expenditures for acquisitions are only presented in the Report after the close of escrow. By June 30, 2017, the Authority closed escrow on four properties.

Each project page provides the following information:

EXPENDITURE PLAN CATEGORY (EPC) NUMBER

Goal and/or initiative defined by the Santa Clara Valley Greenprint and the Measure Q Expenditure Plan the project aims to achieve

PROJECT NUMBER

Unique number assigned in project tracking system and used to track expenditures

PROGRAM, NAME, AND DESCRIPTION

Information about the project

PROJECT STATUS

Status of the project as of June 30, 2017

- In Progress – this status indicates work has started.
- Completed – this status indicates that all milestones have been completed.
- On Hold – this status indicates that a project has been placed on hold and the Authority has temporarily suspended all work related to the project due to a number of reasons.

EXPENDITURE OVERVIEW

Complete summary of all monies spent on the project, including previous fiscal year’s spending

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

Details of Measure Q expenditures spent in Fiscal Year 2016/2017, by expense category

The Authority has several major expense categories.

Payroll and Benefits include expenditures related to salaries and stipends, payroll taxes, and health benefits of full-time staff, part-time staff, temporary staff, and board members.

Supplies and Consumables include goods and supplies purchased and intended for one-time and/or limited consumption. Examples include meeting costs, mileage, office supplies, postage, printing expenses and tools.

Outside Services include expenditures related to professional services and consultancy rendered under contract. Services include legal services, resource management services, planning services, and acquisition and construction related services.

Other Services and Fees capture miscellaneous fees and other expenses. Examples include permitting fees, escrow fees, and brokerage fees.

Equipment and Maintenance expenses include procurement and maintenance of tools, field and shop equipment, and vehicles for use in field operations and maintenance of the Authority's preserves.

Facilities and Utilities cover all expenditures related to the operations and maintenance of the Authority's preserves, including water and electricity utility bills.

Acquisitions capture the cost of fee title and easements.

The following project pages in this report is grouped by EPC number.

[Appendix A](#) is a complete index of all projects funded by Measure Q funds in Fiscal Year 2016/2017. The table is sorted by project number and only lists project expenditures in service of the Expenditure Plan Categories, and does not include administrative fees and costs, committee costs, and grants disbursed under the Urban Open Space Grant Program.

SECTION III: Measure Q Urban Open Space Grant Program and Disbursements

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Measure Q Urban Open Space Grant Program

The Urban Open Space Grant Program is funded by Measure Q and offers grants that will benefit communities and neighborhoods within the Authority's jurisdiction. The Authority's jurisdiction includes the cities of San Jose, Milpitas, Santa Clara, Campbell, Morgan Hill and unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County.

The grants are open to non-profits, public agencies, schools and school districts, and are awarded in these four categories:

- Environmental Stewardship and Restoration
- Parks, Trails, and Public Access
- Environmental Education
- Urban Agriculture/Food Systems

Each fiscal year, the Authority can allocate up to 25 percent of the Measure Q Parcel Tax revenue received. **Allocations** are earmarked as restricted funds and made available for the next grant cycle. The Authority's Board of Directors solicits applications at least once annually and approves the grant **awards**. Up to this point, no monies have left the Authority's cash accounts. Once a grantee starts to incur costs for the project and submits invoices for reimbursement, cash outflow occurs when the Authority makes a **disbursement** to reimburse the grantee. A summary of all awards and disbursements made during fiscal year 2016/2017 is shown in Table 6 below.

Table 7: Urban Open Space Grant Program

Grantee	Award	Disbursements	Balance
Children's Discovery Museum	308,765.00	71,954.49	236,810.51
SAGE	10,000.00	10,000.00	-
Guadalupe River Park Conservancy	24,987.00	923.67	24,063.33
Latinos United for a New America (LUNA)	250,000.00	-	250,000.00
Bay Area Wilderness Training	40,000.00	22,451.23	17,548.77
Joseph George Middle School / Citizen Schools	24,675.00	-	24,675.00
San Jose State University Research Foundation	166,740.00	11,342.97	155,397.03
City of Campbell	35,067.00	-	35,067.00
Santa Clara County Public Health Department	250,000.00	-	250,000.00
Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition	12,142.00	2,957.07	9,184.93
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council	51,401.00	-	51,401.00
The Regents of the University of California / UCCE Santa Clara Cty	167,411.00	-	167,411.00
The Santa Clara County Food System Alliance	24,999.00	-	24,999.00
Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful	76,703.00	-	76,703.00
City of Morgan Hill	248,012.00	-	248,012.00
San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory	34,500.00	754.84	33,745.16
Friends of Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County	132,353.00	42,440.01	89,912.99
TOTALS	1,857,755.00	162,824.28	1,694,930.72



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SECTION IV: MQEOC and Administrative Expenditures

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Measure Q Expenditure Oversight Committee Costs

Measure Q Expenditure Oversight Committee Costs represent expenditures related to the ongoing costs of administering committee meetings. Expenses include fees for the annual audit preparation, expenses for public meetings conducted by the MQEOC, legal costs for MQEOC, and staff time for board packet preparation related to MQEOC meetings. Expenses charged to this program cannot exceed $\frac{1}{10}$ of 1% of gross revenues. Table 7 summarizes the expenses incurred for Fiscal Year 2016/2017.

Table 8: Breakdown of MQEOC Costs	Amount
Committee and Board Packet Preparation	\$1,366
Annual Independent Financial Audit Services and Preparation	\$5,374
Legal Counsel Services	\$313
TOTAL MQEOC COSTS	\$7,053

Administrative Costs

Administrative Costs represent expenditures related to the ongoing administrative costs of the Authority. Expenses charged to this program cannot exceed 5% of gross Measure Q revenues. Table 8 summarizes the expenses incurred for Fiscal Year 2016/2017.

Table 9: Breakdown of Administrative Costs	Amount
Urban Open Space Grant Program Administration	\$105,116
Annual Measure Q Status Report Preparation	\$6,579
Measure Q Parcel Tax Engineering Services	\$8,461
Public Communications and General Outreach	\$66,532
General Supplies and Consumables	\$113,265
Business Insurance / Facilities and Utilities	\$55,494
General Packet Preparation related to Measure Q	\$38,463
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	\$393,910

Administrative expenses charged to the Urban Open Space Grant Program primarily consist of staff time spent reviewing and processing grants and disbursements, and managing the grant cycle process. Additional administrative expenses related to Measure Q include staff time spent publishing the Annual Measure Q Status Report and contracting for parcel tax engineering services with a tax administrator.

Other general administrative costs related to running the Authority is allowed under the Measure Q Expenditure Plan. In this fiscal year, Measure Q allowed the Authority to fund expenses related to general public communications about Measure Q, outreach events held by the Authority, general business insurance, rent, and supplies, tools, and fuel used by the general office and field staff. Preparation of board packets for Measure Q-funded projects and initiatives is also funded by Measure Q.



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APPENDICES

- A. Index of Projects Funded by Measure Q in Fiscal Year 2016/2017
- B. Responses to the Measure Q Oversight Report and Recommendations
- C. The Open Space, Wildlife Habitat, Clean Water and Increased Public Access Expenditure Plan

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Index of Projects Funded by Measure Q as of June 30, 2017 by Project Number

Project Number	EPC #	Program	Project	Funds Expended in FY 16/17	Status
P-000007	1	Resource Management	Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program Development	\$ 14,398	In Progress
P-000009	2	Resource Management	Pond Infrastructure Assessment and Engineering Design	\$ 15,914	Completed
P-000010	2	Capital Improvement	Blair Pond Repair	\$ 56	On Hold
P-000011	1	Resource Management	Vegetation Management Programmatic Environmental Review	\$ 461	In Progress
P-000013	2	Capital Improvement	Coyote Ridge Pond Restoration Project	\$ 764	In Progress
P-000014	1	Resource Management	Develop Fire Management Program	\$ 9,748	On Hold
P-000015	2	Capital Improvement	South Valley Meadow Enhancement Project	\$ 223,173	In Progress
P-000016	3	Capital Improvement	Pajaro River Agricultural Preserve Strategic Plan	\$ 24,374	In Progress
P-000017	1	Resource Management	5-Year Resource Management Strategy	\$ 604	On Hold
P-000018	2	Resource Management	Memorandum of Understanding with CDFW Work in Stream Channels	\$ 107	In Progress
P-000019	1	Acquisition	Priority Land Acquisition Projects	\$ 63,718	In Progress
P-000021	1	Resource Management	Coyote Valley Landscape Linkages	\$ 5,309	In Progress
P-000022	2	Resource Management	Coyote Valley Water Resource Enhancement Feasibility Study	\$ 43,904	In Progress
P-000023	1	Conservation	Santa Clara Valley Greenprint Update & Decision Support Tool	\$ 4,253	In Progress
P-000024	1	Conservation	Coyote Valley Conservation Strategy	\$ 163,228	In Progress
P-000025	1	Conservation	Regional Conservation Investment Strategy	\$ 21,936	In Progress
P-000026	1	Conservation	SCC Climate and Protection Program (CAPP)	\$ 102,098	In Progress
P-000027	1	Conservation	Santa Clara Valley Greenprint Implementation Funding/Grant Research	\$ 5,587	In Progress
P-000028	3	Capital Improvement	Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve Public Access Plan	\$ 4,652	In Progress
P-000031	3	Capital Improvement	Pea House Demolition	\$ 39,187	Completed
P-000032	3	Capital Improvement	Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve ADA Trail	\$ 21,383	In Progress
P-000033	3	Capital Improvement	Dexter Canyon Bridge Replacement	\$ 45,026	On Hold
P-000034	3	Capital Improvement	New trail at Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve	\$ 70,770	In Progress
P-000035	3	Capital Improvement	Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Equestrian Lot Performance Evaluation	\$ 3,174	On Hold
P-000036	3	Capital Improvement	Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve Public Access Plan: Blair Trail	\$ 440	In Progress
P-000038	3	Environmental Education	Youth Engagement Programs	\$ 3,132	In Progress
P-000040	3	Environmental Education	Monthly Land Stewards Program	\$ 10,662	In Progress
P-000041	3	Environmental Education	Implement Plan to Provide Transportation to Preserves	\$ 8,735	In Progress

Project Number	EPC #	Program	Project	Funds Expended in FY 16/17	Status
P-000043	3	Environmental Education	Environmental Education Partnerships	\$ 120,947	In Progress
P-000044	3	Environmental Education	Mobile Nature Center	\$ 882	In Progress
P-000045	1	Environmental Education	Understanding Our Communities Phase II	\$ 12,018	In Progress
P-000046	3	Environmental Education	Deep Engagement Communities Partnership Plan	\$ 5,370	In Progress
P-000048	1	Conservation	Coyote Valley Communications Strategy	\$ 43,431	In Progress
P-000087	3	Operations	Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 105,362	In Progress
P-000088	3	Operations	Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 172,300	In Progress
P-000089	3	Operations	Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 19,417	In Progress
P-000090	3	Operations	Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 221,699	In Progress
P-000091	3	Operations	Diablo Foothills Open Space Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 21,651	In Progress
P-000092	3	Operations	Little Uvas Open Space Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 12,741	In Progress
P-000093	3	Operations	Palassou Ridge Open Space Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 29,035	In Progress
P-000095	3	Operations	Pajaro River Agricultural Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 14,092	In Progress
P-000096	3	Operations	Santa Teresa Foothills Open Space Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 12,561	In Progress
P-000097	3	Operations	Upper Uvas Open Space Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 12,929	In Progress
P-000098	3	Operations	Mount Chual Open Space Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 17,542	In Progress
P-000099	3	Operations	El Toro Open Space Preserve Operations & Maintenance	\$ 23,721	In Progress
P-000105	1	Acquisition	Mobedshahi Conservation Easement	\$ 256,236	Completed
P-000107	1	Acquisition	Pfeiffer Acquisition	\$ 259,903	Completed
P-000112	1	Conservation	Conservation Easement Monitoring	\$ 5,599	In Progress
P-000118	1	Acquisition	Leung Acquisition	\$ 1,868,169	Completed
P-000120	1	Resource Management	Mitigation Application - California Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$ 2,724	Completed
P-000121	1	Capital Improvement	5-Year Capital Improvement Plan	\$ 12,360	In Progress
P-000123	1	Resource Management	Natural Resource Policy and Planning	\$ 12,763	In Progress
P-000124	1	Conservation	GIS Program Development	\$ 3,673	In Progress
P-000125	1	Conservation	PG&E Easement Coordination on Coyote Ridge	\$ 6,972	In Progress
P-000126	1	Conservation	High Speed Rail Planning and Coordination	\$ 15,384	In Progress
P-000127	1	Resource Management	Coyote Valley North Meadow Burn	\$ 2,920	On Hold
P-000130	1	Conservation	Food System Alliance/Ag Conservation Strategy	\$ 1,294	Completed
P-000131	1	Acquisition	Pravettoni Acquisition	\$ 814,052	Completed

Project Number	EPC #	Program	Project	Funds Expended in FY 16/17	Status
P-000134	1	Resource Management	Coyote Valley Bobcat and Gray Fox Study	\$ 12,214	In Progress
P-000135	1	Conservation	Young Ranch Environmental Impact Report Review	\$ 507	Completed
P-000136	3	Operations	Loma Fire Response and Restoration	\$ 112,428	In Progress
P-000155	1	Capital Improvement	El Toro Open Space Preserve Management and Planning	\$ 1,229	In Progress
P-000156	3	Operations	Pajaro River Agricultural Preserve Clean Up	\$ 17,053	In Progress
P-000157	3	Operations	Winter 2017 Storm Repairs	\$ 23,198	In Progress
P-000158	1	Resource Management	Coyote Ridge Grazing Improvements	\$ 1,751	In Progress
Total Project Expenditures in FY 16/17				\$ 5,182,920	

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Authority Board of Directors' Response to MQEOC Oversight Report Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2015/2016

The Measure Q Expenditure Oversight Committee (MQEOC) provides an independent review of all revenues and expenditures of Measure Q Funds. The Committee, appointed by the Authority Board of Directors pursuant to Measure Q, ensures accountability, transparency and public oversight of all funds collected and allocated under Measure Q.

The Committee's roles and responsibilities, as defined by the Expenditure Plan, are to:

- Review Measure Q Plan expenditures on an annual basis to ensure they conform to the Expenditure Plan.
- Review the annual audit and report prepared by an independent auditor; and
- Submit the Committee's recommendations and oversight report to the Open Space Authority Board.

The Committee does not oversee any other Authority financial information, nor do they set policy or provide input or direction on projects, budgets, work plans or financial matters pertaining to other Authority funds.

In February 2017, the MQEOC presented the first Annual Measure Q Oversight Report to the Authority's Board of Directors. Their report summarized the findings of the MQEOC and provided four recommendations regarding the revenues and expenditures of Measure Q for the 2015/2016 fiscal year, as summarized below:

1. Explain expenditures more fully (in the Annual Status Report).
2. Future audit contracts should provide explicit findings "to assure that the revenues expended by the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority under the (Measure Q Parcel Tax) are necessary and reasonable..."
3. Provide additional details on administrative expenses in the Annual Status Report.
4. Provide more context and clarity between the financial summary table and the project summary table in the Annual Status Report.

A fifth recommendation, not related to the Measure Q Parcel Tax, was offered regarding the preparation and administrative review process for Annual Status Report.

On October 12, 2017 the Administration and Budget Committee reviewed the MQEOC's recommendations and prepared a response to be presented to the Board. At their meeting on October 26, 2017, the Board reviewed and considered each recommendation set forth by the Committee and discussed the responses recommended by the Administration and Budget Committee.

In response to each of the MQEOC's recommendations, the Board directed staff to:

1. Provide detailed expenditure information for each project in the Annual Status Report.
2. Continue to direct preparation of the audit as it stands currently. The annual audit is not meant to be a functional audit. As noted in Response #1, Staff will provide more detailed expenditure information for each project.

3. Expand the Administrative Expense information to include a detailed breakdown of expenses.
4. Update the information charts providing more context and clarity for the information being displayed.

Recommendation #1

As noted (in the Oversight Report), under the review of annual expenditures for conformance to the Measure Q Expenditure Plan, the FY 2015/2016 Annual (Status) Report does not provide sufficient transparency to allow public oversight of funds collected and allocated under Measure Q. Program expenditures should be more fully explained where their rationale might not be clear based on the description provided.

OSA Response:

To provide more information on expenditures, the Administration and Budget Committee has directed Staff to include a breakdown of expenditures for each project in the next Annual Measure Q Status Report (reporting for FY 2016/2017). Expected delivery of the report is December 2017.

Staff has also developed and implemented improved processes for project identification and reporting, including development of a project request form that gathers more complete project description information as well as other data used for tracking and reporting.

Recommendation #2

As noted in the above review of the annual audit and report prepared by the independent auditor, future audit contracts should require an explicit finding related to Section C.2[f] of the Measure Q Expenditure Plan.

OSA Response:

At the February 23rd Board meeting where these recommendations were presented, it was concluded that Measure Q does not direct that an independent financial auditor conduct programmatic level audit services. This position was reaffirmed by Administration and Budget Committee. However, as noted in Response to Recommendation #1, the Annual Project Status Report will include more detailed project descriptions and financial expenditure information to assist the MQEOC in their annual review of Measure Q expenditures.

Recommendation #3

The text of Measure Q says, “No more than 5% of the revenue generated by this measure and provided to the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority may be used for administrative expenses.” As part of future annual status reports, additional administrative expense allocation details must be provided.

OSA Response:

Future Measure Q Status Reports will provide an expanded section dedicated to explaining administrative expenses including a breakdown of expenditures.

Recommendation #4

In the 2015/2016 Annual Measure Q Status Report, Section 1, Table 2 provides Measure Q expenditures by program. Eight programs are listed and described. Section 2 includes a table which is a Summary of Projects Funded by Measure Q. Projects are further broken down by the four Measure Q objectives (also called programs) and then by “Project Type”. The Section 2 Summary does not neatly rollup into the Section 1, Table 2. Reading the two tables together is confusing. The programs mentioned are both similar and different. Project types are related to programs. The two sections and associated tables should be rewritten so that terms are used consistently, and the totals reconcile.

OSA Response:

Staff has redesigned the two tables in the report and narrative has been developed to provide clearer context for how to read the tables in future reports.

Recommendation #5

An able editor should be given sufficient time to review wording of Measure Q Reports for clarity, correct spelling and use of proper English. We found some report wording confusing and unclear.

OSA Response:

Staff has identified in-house editorial staff to provide additional grammatical and contextual review.

The Open Space, Wildlife Habitat, Clean Water and Increased Public Access Expenditure Plan

A. Summary

Since its creation in 1993, the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (OSA) has protected over 16,000 acres of open space and natural areas, preserving the natural beauty and health of our area, and protecting our region's water resources, air quality, wildlife and scenic views for residents today and future generations. Governed by a publicly elected board of directors, OSA has used funds wisely, bringing in state, federal, and private grant money, and providing annual audits in a transparent public process.

However, the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority currently faces significant challenges. As our region continues to grow, protecting hillsides and open spaces are increasingly important to our community. If adopted by voters, the Open Space, Wildlife Habitat, Clean Water, and Increased Public Access Measure (Measure) would allow OSA to protect and preserve natural open space areas for future generations by: improving parks, open spaces and trails; protecting land around creeks, rivers and streams to prevent pollution and improve local water quality; preserving wildlife habitat; expanding public access; enhancing environmental education; and protecting scenic hillsides.

The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority will ensure that the revenue generated is spent in the most efficient and effective manner possible, consistent with serving the public interest and in accordance with existing law. The Authority shall use the funding only for the purposes set forth in this Expenditure Plan ("Plan") and it shall give priority to projects in this Plan.

The high priority potential projects listed in the Plan are the result of a broad public engagement process to create a shared vision for the future of the region's open space. This vision plan developed by the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, called the *Santa Clara Valley Greenprint*, identifies high priority open space and natural resource lands as identified in this Plan. If approved, the proceeds from the parcel tax would be allocated to fund high priority projects distributed throughout the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority's jurisdiction such as those listed below.

The Authority may annually review and propose amendments to the Plan to provide for the use of additional federal, state and local funds, to account for unexpected revenues, or to take into consideration unforeseen circumstances, provided, however, that all funds collected pursuant to the Measure shall be used solely for the purposes of this Plan as presented to the voters.

B. Program Descriptions

1. Protect Open Space, Redwood Forests, Wildlife Habitat, Scenic Hillside and Agricultural Land

The purpose of this program is to permanently protect new open space lands essential to completing connections in the region's park, open space and habitat systems as identified in the Authority's *Santa Clara Valley Greenprint*, the County Parks *Acquisition Plan*, *Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan*, and other adopted plans.

- a. Ensure permanent protection of essential open space, water resources and wildlife habitat. Areas for open space protection can include but are not limited to Baylands, East San Jose Foothills, Upper Alameda Creek Watershed, Coyote Ridge, Coyote Valley, Upper Coyote Creek Watershed, Southern Santa Cruz Mountains, Sargent Hills, Upper Pajaro River Watershed, Pacheco Creek Watershed. Protect, restore and enhance critical habitat to implement the Valley Habitat Plan such as serpentine grasslands, wetlands, redwood forests and riparian areas along creeks, rivers and streams.
- b. Leverage public and private funding and coordinate protection efforts to complete critical open space preservation
- c. Conserve the region's last remaining farmland and rangelands in and around areas such as the Coyote Valley, Morgan Hill, Gilroy and Pajaro River to protect local food and maintain environmental benefits provided by agricultural lands including water supply, groundwater recharge, flood risk reduction, and habitat protection.
 - i. Conserve high priority farmland and rangelands through voluntary agreements with willing landowners.
 - ii. Provide grants to resource conservation districts (RCDs) and other agricultural organizations to work with farmers and ranchers to promote natural resource stewardship.

2. Protect Land around Creeks, Rivers and Streams to Prevent Pollution and Improve Local Water Quality and Supply

The purpose of this program is to protect and restore natural areas that buffer our rivers, lakes and streams, including the Guadalupe River, Coyote Creek, Fisher Creek, Penitencia Creek, Upper Alameda Creek, Uvas Creek, Llagas Creek, Pacheco Creek, Pescadero Creek and the Pajaro River to protect water supply and water quality.

- a. Protect clean, safe drinking water supplies by restoring and enhancing natural areas around local creeks, rivers and streams from their headwaters in the hills to the Bay.
- b. Preserve key open space areas to enhance local water supply and recharge groundwater.
- c. Protect water resources, floodplains, wetlands and riparian corridors.

3. Open, Improve and Maintain Parks, Open Space, and Trails

The purpose of this program is to maintain existing Open Space Preserves, safeguard the health of natural areas and wildlife habitat; reduce the risk of wildfires; provide more hiking and walking trails and increase opportunities for environmental education experiences.

- a. Open and expand Preserves on existing lands, including more trails for walking, hiking and biking and more access points for residents. Develop science-based environmental education programs and facilities, trails, and other public access facilities in appropriate locations including East San Jose/Penitencia Creek/Milpitas Foothills, Coyote Ridge, Coyote Valley, Morgan Hill El Toro Peak, Almaden Valley/Santa Teresa Hills.
- b. Construct new trails and close gaps in regional hiking and bicycle trails (such as the Bay Area Ridge Trail, San Francisco Bay Trail, Coyote Creek Trail and Guadalupe River).

- c. Reduce the risk of wildfire near communities, protect air and water quality and control invasive, non-native weeds through vegetation management in coordination with fire districts, cities and the County.
- d. Provide safe, well-maintained Open Space Preserves and recreational trails, including the Bay Area Ridge Trail, San Francisco Bay Trail, Guadalupe River Trail and Coyote Creek Trail.
- e. Work with qualified organizations and entities, including, but not limited to, the California Conservation Corps, the San Jose Conservation Corps, AmeriCorps and others, to maintain facilities in Open Space Preserves including, but not limited to, cultural and historic structures, bridges, roads, and other infrastructure.
- f. Prevent pollution and vandalism of open space, water resources and wildlife habitat.

4. Urban Open Space, Parks and Environmental Education Program

The purpose of this Grant Program is to assist municipalities, schools and applicable non-profit organizations within the cities of Milpitas, Santa Clara, San Jose, Campbell, Morgan Hill and urban County areas to create healthy and safe open space and park areas for their communities by creating or improving parks, preserving open space and maintaining or creating trails; enhancing and restoring habitat, natural resources and water resources; and enhancing access to healthy food through urban farms and gardens.

No more than 25 percent of the revenues generated by this funding measure will be made available for this Grant Program. The Grant Program would provide grants to cities, the County, schools and non-profit organizations on a competitive basis for the types of projects listed below within the boundaries of the OSA. Funds shall be available through an annual grant allocation process designed by the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, in coordination with cities, the County, schools and non-profit organizations within the boundaries of the OSA. Grant allocations shall reward a diversity of projects and be balanced geographically across the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority's jurisdiction. The grant allocation process and the individual projects shall be subject to approval by the Authority's Governing Board of Directors ("Board").

Urban Open Space Project Criteria:

- a. Protect and enhance open space, wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors, and develop land for nature-based parks, open space preserves, trails and greenbelts.
- b. Create, develop and implement pedestrian and bicycle trail connections to connect urban communities to local and regional parks, Open Space Preserves, creeks and flood control channels, to improve public health (i.e. San Francisco Bay Trail, Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, Silver Creek, Thompson Creek, Penitencia Creek, Three Creeks Trail, Five Wounds Trail).
- c. Implement urban tree planting and tree protection/maintenance.
- d. Create and expand urban farms and community gardens to support public health and local agriculture.
- e. Expand nature and science-based environmental education programs and hands-on youth engagement projects.

EXAMPLES OF HIGH PRIORITY POTENTIAL PROJECTS AND GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

1. San Francisco Baylands Restoration: Increase wildlife habitat and reduce pollution by restoring salt ponds to tidal marsh, provide enhanced flood control, and develop new public access to the Bay

2. Alviso Adobe and Higuera Adobe Parks: Establish Alviso Adobe as a historical museum, and refurbish the historic Caretaker's Cottage in Higuera Adobe Park in collaboration with the City of Milpitas
3. San Francisco Bay Trail: Increase public access by closing gaps in Bay Trail walking and biking trail connections
4. San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail: Provide Water Trail public access amenities at Alviso Marina
5. Ulistac Natural Area: Increase educational programming, and restore natural habitat
6. Sierra Vista: Establish staging area and trails, convert historic residence to visitor hostel, restore pond and wildlife habitats for endangered species
7. Penitencia Creek Trail: Complete trail linking Penitencia Creek community to Alum Rock Park and Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve
8. Guadalupe River Nature Center and Environmental Programming: Partner with nonprofits to establish outdoor environmental education learning center and interpretive programming for youth and families
9. Five Wounds Trail: Develop additional trails connecting to future public transit station
10. Coyote Creek Trail: Expand walking and biking trail connections and restore natural habitats
11. Silver Creek Trail: Increase walking and biking opportunities by creating connections to regional trails, parks and transit
12. Three Creeks Trail: Complete eastern trail alignment
13. San Tomas Aquino /Saratoga Creek Trail: Construct walking and biking trails through cities of Campbell and Santa Clara
14. Thompson Creek Trail Improvements: Complete walking and biking trail improvements
15. Guadalupe River Trail: Expand walking and biking trail connections
16. Martial Cottle Park: Partner with County Parks to develop trail link to Blossom Hill Light Rail Station and implement recreation and wetland restoration projects
17. Santa Teresa Hills: Partner with City of San Jose, County and Santa Teresa Neighborhood Association to protect land and develop regional ridgeline trail connections to create more access to local trails
18. Coyote Ridge: Establish new open space preserve with parking and regional trails, and protect and restore habitat for endangered species
19. Calero County Park: Partner with County to establish a staging area, public access and trails at Rancho San Vicente and at McKean Road
20. Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve: Build an outdoor learning center and a loop trail accessible to seniors and people with disabilities, and restore and enhance wetland habitat
21. Coyote Valley Agriculture and Natural Resource Reserve: Preserve agricultural lands, enhance natural resources, establish public access, and protect wildlife corridor
22. Youth Agricultural Education and Demonstration Farm: Partner with Cities of San Jose, Morgan Hill, Sobrato High School, nonprofits and agricultural organizations to establish an agricultural education and demonstration farm in the Coyote Valley Greenbelt

23. Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve: Restore wildlife habitat, build an interactive education center, and construct new staging area and regional trails for increased public access
24. El Toro Peak: Partner with City of Morgan Hill to establish an open space preserve with staging area and trails, and restore natural habitat
25. Southern Santa Cruz Mountains: Establish regional trail connections between Uvas Reservoir, Uvas County Park and Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve, develop staging area, and protect wildlife corridor
26. Uvas Creek: Protect wildlife habitat and corridor, protect natural lands for water supply and water quality, and increase trails to close gaps in regional trails
27. Palassou Ridge: Establish open space preserve, restore historic stone house for visitor center, develop multi-use trails connecting to Henry Coe State Park; implement wildfire prevention and habitat restoration projects
28. Diablo Foothills: Establish open space preserve, restore wetlands and bird habitat, implement public access improvements
29. Sargent Hills: Protect wildlife corridor, create staging area, public access and regional trail connections to the Bay Area Ridge Trail
30. South County Agriculture: Conserve working farms and ranches near Morgan Hill, Gilroy and Pajaro River for greenbelts and agricultural viability and to enhance flood control, water quality, wildlife habitat and connectivity

C. Administrative Provisions and Fiscal Safeguards

1. Citizen Oversight and Independent Financial Audits

In order to ensure accountability, transparency and public oversight of all funds collected and allocated under this Measure and to comply with state law, all of the following shall apply:

- a. On or before January 1 of each fiscal year, the Authority's chief fiscal officer shall file an annual report with the Board that explains (1) the amount of funds collected and expended under this Measure and (2) the status of the projects authorized to be funded by this revenue in compliance with Government Code Sections 50075.1(d), 50075.3.
- b. No later than June 30, 2015, or the first collection of revenue pursuant to the Measure, whichever is later, an Independent Oversight Committee shall be convened to review the expenditures of all parcel tax revenues collected under this Measure. The Board shall establish by resolution the terms, composition, and specific duties of the Oversight Committee, consistent with the "Citizen Oversight and Independent Financial Audits" provisions set forth in this Part C(1). The Oversight Committee will consist of seven at-large members. In making appointments to the Oversight Committee, the Board will seek to reflect the demographic diversity of its jurisdiction.
- c. Members of the Oversight Committee shall be appointed by the Board and shall be residents within the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority's jurisdiction who are neither elected officials of any government, nor employees from any agency or organization that directly benefits financially from the proceeds of the parcel tax.
- d. Oversight Committee meetings will be announced in advance and will be open to the public. The Oversight Committee shall meet at least once but no more than four times per year.

The responsibilities of this Committee include:

- Reviewing Plan expenditures on an annual basis to ensure they conform to the Plan.
 - Reviewing the annual audit and report prepared by an independent auditor and submitting its recommendations and oversight report thereon.
- e. All actions, including decisions about selecting projects for funding, will be made by the Board in public meetings in compliance with the Brown Act
 - f. Annual levies of the parcel tax would start in 2015.
 - g. To the extent allowable by law, all residential and non-residential parcels will be uniformly taxed.
 - h. The revenue raised by the Measure for the purposes described in this Plan will be administered by the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority. All funds shall be placed in a separate account to hold all funds collected pursuant to the Measure.

2. Additional Allocation Criteria and Community Benefits

The Santa Clara Open Space Authority shall ensure that the revenue generated by the Measure is spent in the most efficient and effective manner possible, consistent with serving the public interest and in accordance with existing law and this Plan.

- a. The Santa Clara Open Space Authority shall make all final decisions regarding implementation of the Plan and funding for any specific high priority projects. The Board shall give priority to projects within its jurisdiction that meet multiple objectives of the *Santa Clara Valley Greenprint*, including one or more of the following objectives:
 - i. Have a significant positive effect on the health of land, water, and wildlife habitat, safety and quality of life for OSA residents.
 - ii. Provide for geographic distribution of projects across OSA's jurisdiction.
 - iii. Increase impact by leveraging state and federal resources as well as public/private partnerships.
 - iv. Strengthen connections between communities and open space through regionally-significant trails and transit access.
 - v. Benefit the economy and sustainability of the region by investing in nature-based infrastructure and local workforce development.
 - vi. Engage youth and young adults in local workforce development and assist them in gaining skills and experience related to protection and stewardship of the natural environment, wildlife, water resources and agricultural lands.
- b. The Board shall conduct one or more public meetings annually to gain public input on selection of project grants to expend revenues generated by the Measure.
- c. The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority may accumulate revenue over multiple years so that sufficient funding is available for larger and long-term projects. All interest income shall be used for the purposes identified in this Plan.
- d. No more than 5% of the revenue generated by this measure and provided to the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority may be used for administrative expenses.

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- e. Costs of performing or contracting for project related work shall be paid from the revenues of the measure allocated to the appropriate purpose and project.
 - f. An annual independent audit shall be conducted to assure that the revenues expended by the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority under this Plan are necessary and reasonable in carrying out its responsibilities under this Plan.
 - g. To the extent permitted by law, up to one-tenth of one percent (0.1 %) of the gross proceeds of the parcel tax shall be made available for the Oversight Committee's activities.
 - h. Parcel tax proceeds are intended to augment annual support for the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority and do not substitute for individual city or County obligations. Monies from this program may not go to a city's or the County's "General Fund."
