

CITY OF SANTA ROSA  
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: ALAN ALTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, FINANCE  
RAINER NAVARRO, POLICE CHIEF, POLICE DEPARTMENT  
SCOTT WESTROPE, FIRE CHIEF, FIRE DEPARTMENT  
MAGALI TELLES, DEPUTY DIRECTOR COMMUNITY  
PROGRAMS & ENGAGEMENT, RECREATION & PARKS  
JASON PARRISH, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OFFICER,  
RECREATION  
SUBJECT: PUBLIC SAFETY SPECIAL TAX (MEASURE O) PROGRAM  
IMPACTS

AGENDA ACTION: NO ACTION

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Finance, Police, Fire, Recreation and Community Engagement Departments that the Council hold a study session to receive information and provide feedback and direction regarding programs funded by the public safety special tax (Measure O).

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Measure O is a 20-year special revenue tax providing enhanced Police, Fire, and Violence Prevention programs. The revenue is scheduled to end on March 31, 2025, and as such, the enhanced programs will likely end as well. Staff has briefed the Long-Term Financial Policy and Audit (LTFPA) subcommittee on the potential impacts of losing the revenue, and the subcommittee requested staff to present this information to the City Council during a study session.

BACKGROUND

Ordinance 3680 added Chapter 3-26 to the Santa Rosa City Code establishing a special transaction and use tax. The special tax measure, known as Measure O, increased sales tax by a quarter percent to fund specific, Police, Fire, and Gang Prevention/Intervention programs, as set forth in the Ordinance. This special tax is scheduled to sunset on March 31, 2025.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

Not applicable.

### ANALYSIS

The City's special tax for public safety and violence prevention, known as Measure O, generates between \$9 million and \$10 million per year, on average, and is split between three special revenue funds in the following manner: 40% for police programs, 40% for fire programs, and 20% for violence prevention programs. This is not general fund revenue. The intent of Measure O was to provide more robust public safety services than what could be funded by the general fund.

Over the years, the revenue from this tax measure funded additional police and fire personnel in the field, allowed for the construction of three fire stations, provided funding for CHOICE grants to local non-profits, and funding for neighborhood youth services.

### FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to having a study session.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This Study Session is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15378 in that there is no possibility that the implementation of this action may have significant effects on the environment, and that no further environmental review is required.

### BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The issue of the scheduled end to the public safety special, known as Measure O, has been discussed at meetings of the Long-Term Financial Policy and Audit Subcommittee on April 8, 2021; May 13, 2021; and June 10, 2021.

### NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

### ATTACHMENTS

Not applicable.

### CONTACT

Magali Telles, (707) 543-4634, [MTelles@srcity.org](mailto:MTelles@srcity.org)  
Scott Westrope, (707) 543-3531, [SWestrope@srcity.org](mailto:SWestrope@srcity.org)  
Rainer Navarro, (707) 543-3641, [RNavarro@srcity.org](mailto:RNavarro@srcity.org)  
Alan Alton, (707) 543-3093, [AAlton@srcity.org](mailto:AAlton@srcity.org)