



## Measure T Citizens' Oversight Committee FY 2021-22 Annual Report

March 21, 2023

### *Summary & Background*

The Measure T Citizens' Oversight Committee provides oversight of Measure T sales tax revenue. This Annual Measure T Report covers the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Measure T is a one-cent sales tax, approved by the voters of the City of Redlands, that became effective April 1, 2021. The stated purpose of the tax was to provide funding for safety services, fire protection, paramedics, 911 emergency response, addressing homelessness, police patrols and crime prevention, maintaining library services, parks, sidewalks, and roads, keeping public areas well-maintained and other general services. The measure included a provision for the formation of a Citizens' Oversight Committee, further described in Chapter 2.72 in the Redlands Municipal Code.

The Oversight Committee was established to serve as an advisory body to the City Council and to periodically review the revenues and expenditures of Measure T monies. The seven-member committee is comprised of five (5) citizen members from each Council district and two (2) members representing the City's employee bargaining units. The committee shall advise the Council regarding the use of Measure T revenue, according to the priorities set forth in each fiscal year adopted budget. This includes an annual written report to the Council that summarizes the committee's proceedings and activities during the most recent review period.

For fiscal year (FY) 2021-22, City Council made the decision to prioritize the following expenditures in the Adopted Budget.

- Continue funding additional public safety staffing, as well as staffing for other critical services
- Restoring vehicle leases and equipment purchases for Fire & Police
- Restoring contract services for the maintenance of parks, streets, and City facilities
- Addition of Capital Projects -
  - Animal Shelter Improvements
  - Park Infrastructure Upgrades & Improvements

- Streetlighting Infrastructure Improvements
- Street Infrastructure Repairs
- Partial funding for the purchase of State Street City Hall
- Building reserves for public safety and homelessness, ADA & sidewalk repairs, and future city/public safety facilities

During FY 2021-22, the City received a total of \$20.7 million in Measure T sales tax. This was roughly \$1 million higher than the updated 12-month budget estimates for FY 2021-22. (12-month estimates are produced for the current year during the budget planning stages for the upcoming year.) After experiencing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, sales have bounced back significantly in FY 2021-22. Consumer spending remained strong, despite high inflation pushing prices up. Stronger than anticipated fiscal year-end Measure T sales tax revenues are a result of this higher consumer spending and demonstrate the vibrancy and resilience of the City's local economy.

### *Committee Proceedings*

Between May 2022 and March 2023, the Committee met a total of three (3) times. In May 2022, the Committee met to receive a budget presentation from staff. The proposed budgets for Measure T expenditures for fiscal years 2023 and 2024 were explained and discussed with detailed descriptions of the itemized spending categories. The proposed budget included new staffing for police, fire, Library and Facilities & Community Services departments. It also included service enhancements, specialized law enforcement equipment, alley & sidewalk projects, as well as tree trimming of 25% of the City's urban forest. The committee discussed the proposed budget in detail, with a particular focus on staffing for public safety.

In February 2023, the Committee met to review the draft Measure T audited financials and draft annual report. Over the course of the next meeting, the Committee discussed options to express its opinion on the expenditure of Measure T funds, including the presentation of the annual report to the City Council as well as other avenues to communicate to the broader public & community.

During its meeting of March 1, 2023, the Committee reviewed and approved the report (contained herein) pending some revisions and clarifications. It was decided that the next meeting of the Committee would be closer to the presentation of the City Manager's mid-biennium budget review, potentially in June 2023.

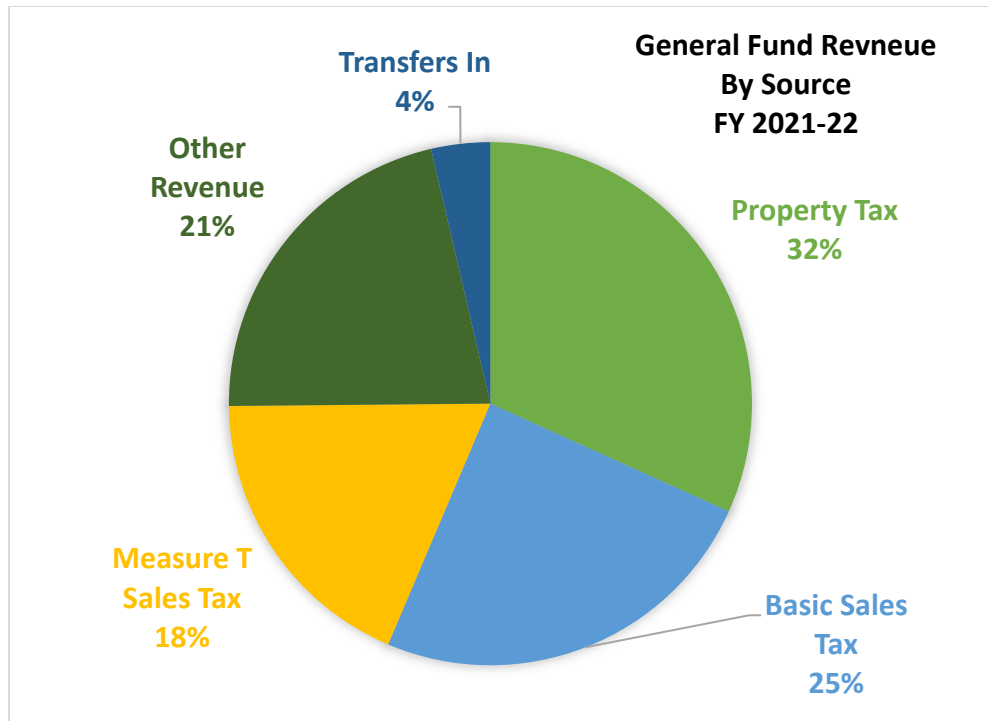
### *Financial Summary Information*

The total General Fund Revenue for fiscal year (FY) 2021-22 was approximately \$111.9 million. Measure T sales tax revenue represents 18% of these funds, or \$20.7 million. These revenues were collected between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. See Figure 1.

Actual Measure T revenues exceeded budget primarily due to the conservative approach in budgeting major tax revenues to compensate for the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and general economic recovery. The passage of Measure T continues to stabilize the City budget and allowed the City to deliver on the expectations and desires of our community. This includes efforts towards enhanced services in public safety and

infrastructure maintenance, as well as bringing back Library hours to pre-COVID levels and restoring general maintenance contracts for park and street upkeep. Measure T is allowing the City to make significant investments in park improvements, fleet and heavy equipment replacement, and the addition of staff to enhance service delivery.

Figure 1.



Below are a few key statistics related to the collection of Measure T:

- Online sales continued to boost Measure T revenue and overall sales tax.
- Taken together, both Basic Sales tax and Measure T sales tax comprise 43% of General Fund revenue, overtaking Property Tax as the largest contributor to General Fund revenue for the first time ever.
- Measure T brought in roughly \$16 million more this year, representing a full 12-month period of revenue. In FY 2021, Measure T was only collected during the last quarter (last 3 months) of the fiscal year.

Figure 2 on the following page describes the adopted budget items, the amount budgeted, and spending before June 30, 2022. Since actual Measure T revenues exceeded budget, certain projects were incorporated into the Measure T spending plan as long as they were appropriate in nature given the Measure T ballot language. The Committee notes that because Measure T revenue is a general sales tax comingled with other General Fund revenue and pooled for General Fund expenditures, it is not possible to trace all specific expenditures back to Measure T revenue.

Figure 2.

Spending from the Approved Budget FY 2021-22	Adopted Budget FY 2021-22	Actual FY 2021-22	Difference
<b>Public Safety</b>			
Restore 5 police officers, various other positions	\$ 1,217,408	\$ 1,217,408	-
IT infrastructure and services for PD	288,000	496,000	208,000
Restoration of Fire personnel, including Community Risk Reduction	218,481	218,481	-
Enhanced custody transport services	100,000	150,000	50,000
Body-worn camera purchase	242,359	478,065	235,706
Additional police and fire personnel	379,935	379,935	-
Purchase of 3 fire trucks/engines	3,000,000	3,614,377	614,377
Addition to Public Safety / Homelessness Reserve	2,530,000	2,530,000	-
Police vehicles	368,983	368,983	-
Police facility security improvements	150,000	101,376	(48,624)
	subtotal	9,554,625	
<b>Public Infrastructure</b>			
Tree trimming for 25% of City trees	1,000,000	1,221,800	221,800
FCS rolling stock / equipment	700,000	317,003	(382,997)
Restored and enhanced contractual service for general maintenance	750,000	672,809	(77,191)
LED Streetlight Replacement Project	1,315,686	1,315,686	-
State Street - City Hall purchase	2,800,000	3,000,000	200,000
ADA Ramp & Curb construction	500,000	377,250	(122,750)
Addition to Reserve for ADA & Sidwalk repairs and maintenance	1,000,000	1,000,000	-
Addition to Reserve for Future Public Facilities	850,000	1,000,000	150,000
	subtotal	8,904,548	
<b>Quality of Life</b>			
Library staffing restored	154,407	154,407	-
Animal Shelter Facility Improvements	200,000	48,577	(151,423)
Park Infrastructure Improvements	363,929	363,929	-
Redlands Bowl Improvements	700,000	1,200,000	500,000
Addition of personnel citywide (maintenance, recreation, etc.)	439,706	439,706	-
	subtotal	2,206,619	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 19,268,894</b>	<b>\$ 20,665,792</b>	<b>\$ 1,396,898</b>

During FY 2022, many noteworthy projects and critical staffing needs received funding from Measure T. To start, public safety needs received a total of approximately \$9.6 million in Measure T funds. The Police Department received funding for restoring 5 police officer positions and various other administrative and technical staff. In addition to this, IT enhancements exceeded the original budget figures due to the need to expand the scope of the project to include comprehensive design and support services for a new backup and disaster recovery

technology. The Police Department also received funding for body-worn cameras, the addition to the Public Safety/Homelessness reserve, and the addition of gates and fencing around their facilities.

The Fire Department received funding for the purchase of two (2) Type 1 engines and 1 tractor-drawn aerial engine (Ladder Truck). The City received the Type 1 engines in the summer of 2022 and anticipates taking delivery of the tractor-drawn aerial engine by April 30, 2023. In addition to funding to purchase the fire engines, funding to hire a deputy fire marshal and a fire prevention inspector was also authorized.



Two brand new Redlands Fire Type 1 Engines



Brand new Redlands Fire Ladder Truck

In terms of public infrastructure, there are several areas in which Measure T has been invested: tree trimming, street & signal light repair, ball field maintenance and construction of new ball fields, general park repairs, restriping of streets and crosswalks, and ADA ramp and sidewalk replacement.

- 9,419 trees were trimmed, including park and street trees. This is seven times more than the previous annual average trimming level. Also, 320 dead trees were removed (double the previous average).



- Regular maintenance to over 800 acres of parks and trails was restored, including maintenance to 18 city parks, the downtown area, and landscaping at City Hall.
- Removed & replaced 506 linear feet of curb and gutter at 48 different locations
- Installed and replaced approximately 60 ADA ramps throughout the City
- Contract underway to replace roughly 4,800 City-owned streetlights and 70 traffic signals with energy-efficient LED lights
- Removed and replaced approximately 25,000 linear feet of damaged/raised sidewalk



Tree Trimming Efforts – before & after (Cypress Ave.)



Sidewalk Replacement Project

Lastly, Measure T enabled investment into enhancing and restoring certain 'quality of life' service levels for the community. Some examples of this include:

- Restoration of A. K. Smiley Library staffing, increasing the public service hours to pre-pandemic levels of 56 hours/week.
- The Library was also able to resume instructional and entertainment programming (adult literacy, computer classes, musical and cultural events like Family Day and Dia de los Muertos) in both the assembly room and the Contemporary Club.
- Library funding also includes the addition of two part-time Museum attendants for the opening and operation of the Museum of Redlands
- Completed fencing and concrete replacement at the Animal Shelter, as well as the addition of hiring of 2 kennel attendants (representing 'restoration' of pre-pandemic positions).
- Additional park improvements include the restoration of Ford Park ponds, construction of the Israel Beal baseball field; the rehabilitation of the Redlands Bowl roof, lighting, and seating; and the creation of 8 new pickleball courts.



Israel Beal Baseball Field construction – before & after



Tennis Court to Pickleball Court conversion – before & after

## *Conclusions*

The Measure T Citizens' Oversight Committee has reviewed the revenues and expenditures of the Measure T sales tax and found that they were collected and appropriately spent in accordance with the City's budget plan and the original intent of Measure T, and that the City's FY 2021-22 General Fund Adopted Budget both promoted and maintained the City's core services, including public safety.

Measure T continues to be critical for funding essential city services and infrastructure projects. Additionally, the City is actively working to promote economic development within Redlands to expand and diversify the tax base to provide more long-term revenue stability. The combination of dedicated local revenue from Measure T and a growing local economy provides the local revenue to deliver the services and infrastructure that the residents of Redlands desire.

The Citizens' Oversight Committee understands the passage of Measure T represents a trusted investment by Redlands residents. We believe Measure T funds are being used as intended for the betterment of the community. During the review period, City staff have worked to provide transparent and accurate information to the Committee.

The Citizens' Oversight Committee looks forward to the continued improvements to public safety and infrastructure in the coming years made possible through Measure T.

Sincerely,

Toni Momberger, Chair, District 4

Ruth Cook, Secretary, District 1

Edward Ico, District 2

Shelli Stockton, District 5

Mike Foster, Non-Public Safety Bargaining Unit

Joe Valdivia, Public Safety Bargaining Unit

MEASURE T CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE