



File Photo

AUSD Board of Education were told their Measure A parcel tax was a violation of county government code earlier this month.

County Superior Judge Rules AUSD-Funded Measure Invalid

Sun Staff Reports

An Alameda County Superior Court judge ruled against the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) in a lawsuit declaring Measure A, the district's parcel tax on property owners, a violation of county government code.

Under Measure A, property owners have to pay 26.5 cents per building square foot — capped at \$7,999. Vacant parcels are taxed a flat rate of \$299 ("Local Issues to Appear on Ballot for March 3" Feb.13, 2020).

However, many Island residents were weary of another tax when the measure was on the ballot.

Alameda resident Leland Traiman filed a lawsuit contesting the tax. Traiman's contention was the tax was unfair because larger businesses, such as big box

AUSD said they proposed the new tax because they needed the funds to "attract, recruit and retain teachers and school employees."

"[Twenty] percent of Alameda's teachers leave our school district every single year, wrote Mia Bonta, who was AUSD Board of Education president when the tax was approved. "That's largely because Alameda's teachers are the second-lowest paid in the entire county (ahead of only Oakland) and many of our neighboring school districts offer higher pay and stronger benefits."

Measure A was approved in the March 3, 2020, election. The final tally for Measure A saw 67.1 percent of votes in favor of the new parcel tax. The measure needed two-thirds of "yes" votes to be approved.

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— Mia Bonta
former AUSD Board of Education president

With the measure's approval, teachers received an additional 1 percent raise retroactive to January 2020 and an 8 percent increase for 2020-21 school year. There are about 550 teachers in the district.

Measure B1, a parcel tax approved in 2016 with 74.2% of the vote, remains in place. Money generated by that tax funds a variety of programs for the school district, including music, physical education and fine arts classes.

Alameda voters will vote on another bond measure, Measure B, which offers further financial assistance to AUSD in the June 7 Direct Primary Election. If passed, the bond will fund Phase II repairs and upgrades to schools based on AUSD's Facilities Master Plan ("School Board Finalizes Budget in Bond Measure," Jan. 28).

Phase II projects include renovation to Emma Hood Pool, improvements to the Kofman and Encinal High School auditoriums, improvements to Wood and Lincoln middle schools and more. Projects for Phase II total approximately \$324 million.

Two Community Workshops Upcoming to Improve Lincoln Avenue/Marshall Way/Pacific Avenue Corridor

Sun Staff Reports

Alameda city staff is asking community members to participate in two public workshops to provide feedback to the city on the Lincoln Avenue/Marshall Way/Pacific Avenue Improvement Project.

First, the city will conduct a virtual community workshop via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27. The next day on Thursday, April 28, city staff will hold an in-person open house at the Main Library, at 1550 Oak St., for members of the community to offer their opinions on the proposed project. The meeting will take place at 11:30 a.m. in the Stafford Room.

The city identified the Lincoln Avenue/Marshall Way/Pacific Avenue corridor between Alameda Point at Main Street/Central Avenue and Broadway as a high priority for safety and mobility improvements. The corridor, which is more than three miles long, has been deemed a high-injury corridor with several high crash intersections, according to the city's Vision Zero Action Plan.

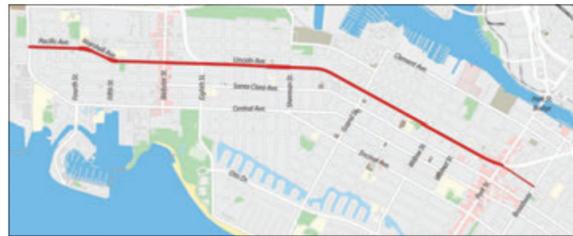
City staff is working with Parisi Transportation Consulting to develop a safety and operational concept for the corridor. Parisi is a Berkeley-based company that provides planning and design services for Complete Streets, Safe Streets, Active Transportation, Traffic Engineering, and Transportation Planning projects throughout the Bay Area.

The city and Parisi will evaluate the current uses, intersection controls and crash data to develop a transportation concept. Community involvement is a priority as the roadway serves many different users. The final concept will likely be phased in over time as street sections are resurfaced



City of Alameda

City has suggested adding two roundabouts in the corridor or adding a road diet, which would put bike lanes on both sides of the street.



City of Alameda

The Lincoln Avenue/Marshall Way/Pacific Avenue corridor is more than three miles long and has been declared a high-injury area, according to the city's Vision Zero Action Plan.

and improvements are constructed with grant funding, according to a city press release.

City staff and consultants are considering a "road diet" for the corridor. A "road diet" would convert the four-lane section of the corridor into three lanes with a center turn lane and bikeways on each side. Staff believes this would reduce crashes by up to 47 percent. Another option is building roundabouts along the corridor, which reduce fatal and severe injury crashes by 90 percent compared to traffic signals or all-way stops, according to city staff. The plan would be to place the roundabouts at the Lincoln Avenue/Constitution Way/Eighth Street intersection or the Lincoln Avenue/Fifth Street/Marshall Way

intersection. Concept approval is expected in early 2023. The project will be financed by Measures B and BB sales tax funds. The purpose of the measures is to improve Alameda County streets and roads. Measure B and BB funds are maintained and allocated by the Alameda County Transportation Commission.

To register for the virtual community workshop, visit https://alamedaca.gov/zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BcAR4G6XQFWYZaIO_yn5rg.

To receive project updates via email or for more information, contact Gail Payne, Senior Transportation Coordinator for the City of Alameda at gpayne@alamedaca.gov.

Upcoming Vacancies on Various City Boards and Commissions

Sun Staff Reports

The City Council is soliciting applications from residents interested in serving on a City of Alameda board or commission.

The city has several vacancies to fill before the new term commences on July 1. The Civil Service Board has three vacancies with one incumbent eligible for reappointment and one partial term. The Commission on Persons with Disabilities has two vacancies with one incumbent eligible for reappointment. The Golf Commission has one vacancy with the incumbent eligible for reappointment. The Historical Advisory Board (HAB) has two vacancies with both incumbents eligible for reappointment.

The Housing Authority Board of Commissioners has two vacancies with one being a partial term. The Library Board has one vacancy with the incumbent eligible for reappointment. The Planning Board has two vacancies with the incumbents eligible for reappointment. The Public Utilities Board (PUB) has one vacancy with the incumbent eligible for reappointment.

The Recreation and Park Commission has three vacancies with all incumbents eligible for reappointment. The Social Service Human Relations Board (SSHRB) has three vacancies with two

incumbents eligible for reappointment. The Transportation Commission has four vacancies with three incumbents eligible for reappointment and one school district representative position vacant.

The Civil Service Board ensures competent and efficient personnel practices, impartial and competitive examinations, fitness- and merit-based appointments, and fair discipline. The Commission on Persons with Disabilities provides information and make recommendations regarding disability issues to the City Council. The Golf Commission advises City Council on operational policies and fees for the golf facilities, including the Chuck Corica Golf Complex. HAB provides advice on matters concerning the history of Alameda, the preservation and protection of historical resources, and serving as a liaison between the city and historical organizations operating within the community.

The Housing Authority Board of Commissioners establishes policies and advises on programs for the development of assisted housing, and the maintenance, modernization, and revitalization of existing facilities. The Library Board controls and manages the city's public library system. The

Planning Board advises the City Council on all matters pertaining to the location, design and modification of physical development in the city including the creation and maintenance of the city's General Plan and zoning ordinances. PUB is responsible for the control and management of the electric enterprise owned by the city (Alameda Municipal Power).

The Recreation and Park Commission advises the Recreation and Park Director, City Council and Board of Education on matters pertaining to the establishment and operation of community recreation programs, activities and facilities. The SSHRB assesses the social service needs of the community and to facilitates the formation of private social welfare organizations. The Transportation Commission advises the council on the city's transportation policies.

Interested persons are encouraged submit applications to the City Clerk by Thursday, May 5. Application forms may be completed and submitted on the city's website (<https://www.alamedaca.gov/GOVERNMENT/Boards-Commissions/Online-Application>).

For more information, contact the city clerk's office at 510-747-4800.



Gretchen Pivonka's garden



Michelle Minor and Milt Friedman's garden

Alameda Gardens Featured on Award-Winning Garden Tour

Sun Staff Reports

Two Alameda gardens will be featured in the 18th Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour. The tour will include two in-person tours on April 30 and May 1.

The award-winning tour allows registrants to visit beautiful, native plant home gardens in the Bay Area. The two Alameda home gardens — Michelle Minor and Milt Friedman's garden and Gretchen Pivonka's garden — are a part of the Bayside garden portion and will be showcased on April 30.

In all, guests will visit 36 bayside gardens on Saturday, April 30 and 15 inland home gardens on Sunday, May 1.

Each tour goes from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The tour is free, but organizers ask guests to donate to the tour. To sign up or donate to the tour, visit <https://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/registration>.

For more information about the garden tour, contact Kathy Cramer at Kathy@KathyCramerConsulting.net or (510) 236-9558 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

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