



# Measure K Local Funds for Local Needs

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2022-23



SUPPORTED BY MEASURE K  
**LOCAL FUNDS  
LOCAL NEEDS**  
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## Measure K Timeline

2008-2009

The Great Recession: Tax revenue plummets as needs for such basics as food, shelter and health care rise, stressing local budgets to the breaking point.

NOVEMBER  
2012

Voters pass a half-cent\* local sales tax (Measure A) placed on the ballot by the Board of Supervisors. The tax measure passes with 65.4 percent of the vote. Collection of the tax began on April 1, 2013, and the Board of Supervisors began to authorize spending later that year. The tax was to sunset on March 31, 2023.

NOVEMBER  
2016

Deciding to build on the progress being made with the local funds, the Board of Supervisors placed a 20-year extension of the sales tax on the November 2016 ballot, designated as Measure K in the randomized alphabet drawing. Measure K was overwhelmingly approved with 70.37 percent of the vote.

\*Note: a half-cent sales tax adds 10 cents to a taxable purchase of \$20. The additional tax on a \$100 taxable purchase is 50 cents. Prescription drugs and most groceries are exempt from sales tax.

## Executive Summary

In November 2016, San Mateo County voters approved Measure K, which extends a half-cent sales tax to provide local funds for local needs until the year 2043.

To enhance transparency and accountability, the County tracks all Measure K funds and places initiatives funded by Measure K into one of seven categories:

- Public Safety
- Health and Mental Health
- Youth and Education
- Housing and Homelessness
- Parks and Environment
- Older Adults and Veterans Services
- Community Services

In addition, the County separately tracks one-time loans and initiatives that are funded at the recommendation of a member of the Board. These are called district discretionary expenditures.

In the fiscal year from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, expenditures across all initiatives totaled \$79,304,436.

Of that total, investments in Housing and Homelessness topped expenditures by category, at \$19.4 million. Nearly one quarter – 24.4 percent – of all Measure K expenditures went toward increasing the supply of affordable housing as well as efforts to end homelessness.

Investments in Youth and Education followed at \$16.3 million, or 20.5 percent.

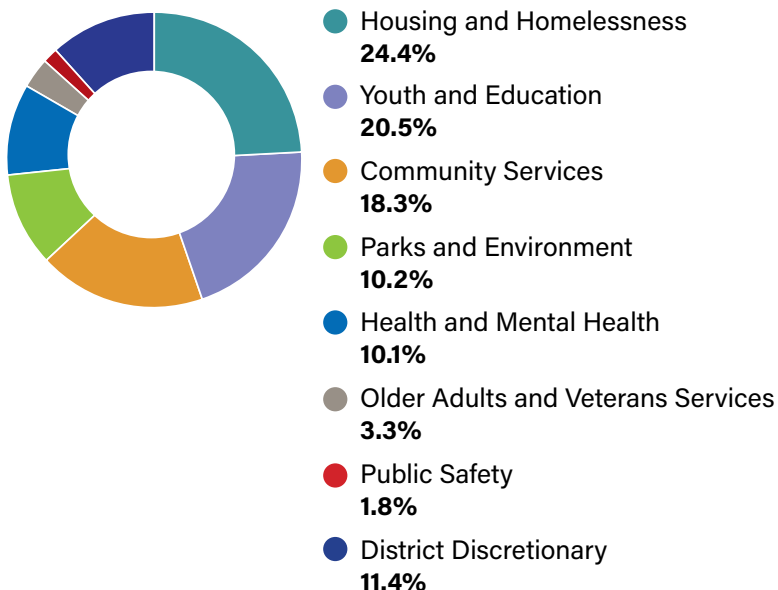
At \$14.5 million, investments in Community Services followed with 18.3 percent of expenditures.

Parks and Environment followed at \$8.1 million, or 10.2 percent; Health and Mental Health, \$7.9 million, or 10.1 percent; Older Adults and Veterans Services, \$2.6 million, or 3.3 percent; and Public Safety, \$1.4 million, or 1.8 percent.

District discretionary spending totaled \$9.1 million, or 11.4 percent.

The following report highlights some of the work accomplished with Measure K funds during the 2022-23 fiscal year.

### Measure K Spending FY 2022-23 \$79,304,436



### The table below represents Measure K revenues and expenditures since inception

Fiscal Year	Measure K Revenues	Measure K Expenditures
2012-13	\$4,397,205	
2013-14	\$75,577,548	\$24,113,909
2014-15	\$80,598,111	36,396,204
2015-16	\$79,888,971	\$44,081,784
2016-17	\$83,033,888	\$58,199,714
2017-18	\$89,602,981	\$88,416,871
2018-19	\$98,604,386	\$102,600,256
2019-20	\$94,078,776	\$82,407,371
2020-21	\$88,750,803	\$69,968,983
2021-22	\$109,823,249	\$77,178,441
2022-23	\$119,614,687	\$79,304,436
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$923,970,605</b>	<b>\$662,667,969</b>



## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Enlisting an Ally Against Human Trafficking

Two out of every three victims of human and sex trafficking were treated in emergency departments, a number that has led the County’s Human Trafficking Program to expand education to local medical providers.

The goal is to empower health care personnel with the knowledge and capabilities to recognize and support potential victims of human trafficking. This endeavor is driven by research:

#### SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**87%**

**had accessed health care services during their trafficking experiences. A significant 68.3% were attended to in emergency department settings**

**96%**

**never provided with information or resources related to trafficking during their visits to medical professionals**

**64%**

**believed that healthcare providers are well-positioned to identify and refer potential trafficking victims to appropriate support services**

#### REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, call 9-1-1.

If you are a victim of human trafficking and need help, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline 1-888-373-7888 or text 233733.



Edgewood Park & Natural Preserve

Reducing fire fuel lessens the risk of fast-spreading fire to nearby communities and contributes to the health of our forests by making room for diverse native plants and habitats that are more resilient against disease.

### Forest Health and Community Safety Initiative

The San Mateo County Parks Forest Health and Community Safety Initiative seeks to improve forest health primarily in parks that are near private dwellings, also called the wildland urban interface.

Most of the work focuses on removing small trees, tall brush and dead or dying vegetation along park boundaries, fire roads and residential roads – less dense vegetation reduces the potential of a fast-spreading, destructive wildfire.

With funding from Measure K, County Parks continued its long-term effort in the 2022-23 fiscal year to improve forest health and reduce the chances of wildfire. Among the projects:

**EDGEWOOD PARK AND NATURAL PRESERVE.** Widening fuel breaks, thinning vegetation and removing small trees.

**JUNIPERO SERRA PARK.** Removing unhealthy eucalyptus trees and Monterey pines.

**QUARRY PARK.** Expanding ongoing fuel-reduction efforts, including construction of a new fire access road.



## Education, Enforcement Removes Guns from People Under Restraining Orders

In October 2022, the County of San Mateo launched a targeted effort to get firearms out of the hands of people with domestic-violence, gun-violence and certain other civil restraining orders against them.

The Gun Violence Prevention Program includes the Superior Court, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office, local police departments and other partners. The results?

- Between Oct. 1, 2022, and Sept. 30, 2023, the Superior Court granted 403 civil restraining orders.
- Sixty-five of those orders included requirements to relinquish firearms.
- Of those, the Court processed 48 "proof of compliance forms," meaning firearms were turned in voluntarily and documented.
- Detectives followed up with the remaining 17 orders either to bring those individuals into compliance or, if they had moved out of the county, notified the new jurisdictions.
- Detectives also verified information on all of the 48 "proof of compliance forms."

### THE RESULTS

#### **168 firearms**

**(67 rifles or shotguns and 101 handguns) were surrendered to law enforcement or federal firearms licensed dealers in compliance with court orders**

In addition to the Gun Violence Prevention Program, the County and partners host a series of anonymous gun buyback events.

At a gun buyback held in May 2023 in South San Francisco, a total of 264 firearms were collected. This included nine assault weapons and four "ghost" guns, which are untraceable.

Measure K funds support both the Gun Violence Prevention Program and the anonymous gun buybacks.

## Domestic Violence: Where to Turn for Help

Domestic violence impacts an estimated 10,000 people in San Mateo County each year.

What is domestic violence?

It's a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner.

It can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological and include threats or other patterns of coercive behavior. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure or wound someone.

To strengthen services and support, the County provides Measure K funds to the nonprofit Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse, or CORA.

CORA provides safety, support and healing for individuals who experience abuse in an intimate relationship and educates the community to break the cycle of domestic violence.

CORA's trained attorneys can provide advice, information and referrals on criminal and noncriminal intimate partner abuse cases. This includes assistance with understanding a survivor's role in the criminal process, restraining orders, child custody, divorce and more.

In the 2022-23 fiscal year, CORA provided legal services to 1,452 individuals, exceeding the target of 775. The legal team delivered full representation for 96 individuals through the court process, exceeding the target of 35.

Intimate partner violence continues to be among the most under-reported crimes, and San Mateo County is committed to eliminating all forms of intimate partner abuse.

**CORA's 24-hour hotline is available at 800-300-1080.**





## HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

### A Respite for Adults in Crisis

Serenity House aims to fill a gap in services for adults undergoing a mental health crisis.

Located on the campus of San Mateo Medical Center, Serenity House offers services for those with deteriorating mental health issues and who need short-term 24/7 treatment, respite and support.

Professional staff provide care, supervision and guidance to assist clients in reducing stress and returning to their living situations – before the need for hospitalization.

The Serenity House program is voluntary and serves San Mateo County adults. Clients are evaluated by staff who determine if the program is the right fit. The evaluation considers many factors, such as personal history, risk of hospitalization and medical conditions.

To keep the setting small and home-like, the number of residents at Serenity House is limited. Residents must be able to live in the community without posing a threat to themselves or others.

Staff are trained in safety and security protocols and de-escalation strategies for clients in crisis. Serenity House also has access to medical staff from the San Mateo Medical Center. Clients on average stay for 10 days.

Measure K funds contribute to operations.

#### IN THE 2022-23 FISCAL YEAR

**95% clients**  
**were discharged from Serenity House**  
**to a lower level of care**



## Substance Use Recovery Through Advanced Treatment

Addiction is a chronic disease, much like heart disease or diabetes, that can be treated and managed with medication, counseling and support. Medication-assisted treatment can help clients end this harmful cycle and start living a life free of alcohol or opioid addiction.

Medication-assisted treatment is the use of medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, which is effective in the treatment of opioid use disorders and can help some people to sustain recovery. The medications ease the detox and recovery process, prevent harmful use and overdose for people seeking recovery, especially those with moderate to severe disorders.

County Health's Integrated Medication Assisted Treatment team helps connect individuals ready to receive treatment to care and support. Team members are located in the emergency department at the San Mateo Medical Center and some County primary care clinics, the jail and other locations.

### DURING THE 2022-23 FISCAL YEAR

#### **3.7 days**

**was the number of days between a client requesting services and the initial appointment for medication-assisted treatment; the target was 5 days**

Measure K funds support the program.

### **Have a Question About Medication Assisted Treatment?**

Call (650) 573-2735 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week, including holidays.

**“Not long ago I found myself in the hospital for withdrawal and addiction problems, where I met an IMAT case manager. He made every effort to help me, from checking in with me, to a welfare check at my room where I had relapsed. I was passed out and empty bottles were everywhere.**

**There was no judgement, just an unconditional offer to help, which I needed. I was treated with medication and counseling and have been sober for seven months.”**

**Client**

## Responding to Mental Health Emergencies

Cities and counties across the United States are launching programs that pair law enforcement with trained crisis workers to respond to 9-1-1 calls involving mental health emergencies.

The goals are to de-escalate emergency situations and get individuals undergoing a mental health or substance use crisis appropriate care.

The County pioneered this approach with the San Mateo County Mental Health Assessment and Referral Team, or SMART program.

Since 2005, local police encountering individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis have the option to consult with a specially trained paramedic (when available) who can conduct an assessment and, if appropriate, provide alternatives to jail or busy emergency departments.

Developed in collaboration between multiple agencies as a community resource, the program is funded in part by Measure K and the California Mental Health Services Act.

The trained SMART medic, who drives a specially marked van or SUV (not an ambulance), can be summoned solely at the request of police for nonviolent, cooperative individuals.

When a SMART medic determines that a person does not have acute medical needs, they can transport the individual to the services they need. SMART medics have the option to:

- Provide voluntary transport to a facility of the individual's choice or to one of the county's two psychiatric emergency departments.
- Arrange for shelter.
- Take the individual to a sobering station for assessment and treatment.
- Consult with medical or psychiatric providers how to best meet the client's needs.
- Provide referral information for continuing care.
- And explore other options to best serve the individual.

During the 2022-23 fiscal year, the SMART program responded to 89 percent of behavioral health calls when requested, exceeding the target of 75 percent.

The SMART program is operated by ambulance service provider American Medical Response under a contract with County Health.



## YOUTH AND EDUCATION

### Making A Difference

**“If young people see themselves in the future, they make decisions to get there.”**

That’s the underlying philosophy of Students Who Achieve Greatness, or SWAG.

SWAG aims to support students from families struggling to make ends meet in East Palo Alto and Belle Haven, areas bordered by some of the most expensive real estate in the United States.

A program of the nonprofit Live in Peace, SWAG provides students the extra help they may need to succeed in school. This might be:

- Tutoring
- Academic or mental health counseling (or both),
- Exposure to new experiences like museums and sports activities or
- Addressing unhealthy behaviors (types of support that families with greater resources typically provide for their children).

SWAG is supported by funds from Measure K. “It’s really exciting what we’re able to do when more than one entity comes together,” said Heather Starnes, SWAG’s executive director.

**SINCE LAUNCH IN 2015  
99% / 263 participants  
graduated high school**

Many have gone on to college or trade schools; a “heavy metal” program provides hands-on experience in high-demand careers in construction and other trades.





## Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities Launches Naloxone Toolkit

The San Mateo County Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities launched its Naloxone Toolkit in December 2022 to help prepare school staff to safely use naloxone to reverse opioid overdoses that may occur on their campuses.

The Toolkit explains what opioids are and how they impact the human body; addresses the emergence and specific dangers of fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that has proven particularly dangerous to youth; describes the science behind an opioid overdose; and explains how to recognize and respond to a suspected opioid overdose, including the administration of naloxone.

The Toolkit also lays out the steps for implementing the Naloxone for Schools Program, which include training; establishing and filling roles; addressing storage, use, and reporting systems; and communicating with the school community.

With funding assistance from Measure K, the Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities is a collaborative, multi-agency group that includes representatives from across San Mateo County in:

- Education
- Law enforcement
- Fire, public safety
- Behavioral health
- Child welfare
- Probation
- County Attorney's Office
- Local government
- Other youth-serving organizations



**Coalition for  
Safe Schools &  
Communities**

### THE COALITION'S MISSION

**To identify and address the safety needs of San Mateo County youth by developing and implementing best practices in emergency preparedness, youth mental health and crisis response, supported by a legally sound information sharing framework.**



**STAR VISTA**

## A Home for Homeless Youth

The one-story house with shingle siding looks like most others in a neighborhood a few blocks south of Woodside Road in Redwood City. It's what's inside that sets it apart.

The house is San Mateo County's only home for homeless youth.

StarVista, a San Carlos-based nonprofit, operates a program there called Daybreak. Homeless youth, ages 16 to 21, learn the skills they need to live on their own in a stable, caring environment.

Clients also receive meals, clothing and other essentials while taking part in cooking communal meals and other daily chores while attending school, job training programs and other future-focused activities.

**“It's something that I'm not used to, having a home first of all, and having nicer people in my life.”**

### Client

Clients also receive personal case management and learn other essential life skills.

The region's high housing prices and cost of living pose significant challenges for these youth who do not have traditional family supports to turn to.

While the goal is to help clients move to permanent housing within 120 days – four months – the average length of stay in the 2023-23 fiscal year was 161 days. This is due to the challenges in locating affordable housing.

Daybreak is supported with funds from Measure K.





## HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

### A Bold Goal: Ending Homelessness

What would it take to end homelessness in San Mateo County?

It starts with ensuring that everyone who wants assistance has a place to live – along with services and supports. The County has set an urgent goal of doing just that.

Using a combination of federal and state funds, the County has been purchasing hotels and similar buildings to convert into temporary and permanent housing. (It takes longer and costs more to build new housing than to convert existing buildings.) These properties add to the county's existing shelter and supportive housing options.

Yet addressing the issues that cause homelessness takes ongoing investments: counseling, case management, trauma services and much more. Properties need upgrades and ongoing maintenance.

Measure K funds are a key source of funding in these efforts.

In the 2022-23 fiscal year, this included operations at:

**COAST HOUSE.** A 51-room hotel conversion for families, couples and individuals in Half Moon Bay.

**SHORES LANDING.** A 95-room hotel conversion for permanent housing for formerly homeless seniors in Redwood City.

**SAFE HARBOR.** A 90-bed congregate shelter in South San Francisco.

**WEHOPE.** A 113-bed congregate emergency shelter in East Palo Alto.

**MAPLE STREET SHELTER.** A congregate shelter in Redwood City that closed in April 2023 (funding is being transferred to support ongoing operations at San Mateo County's first Navigation Center, a new non-congregate shelter in Redwood City).

In addition, Measure K funds support a portion of the homeless outreach services provided by LifeMoves, a local nonprofit agency. This work involves teams who meet with individuals and families experiencing homelessness to provide practical support, information and referrals, including connecting households to shelter, permanent housing programs and needed services.

#### 2022-23 FISCAL YEAR

**578 unduplicated clients received homeless outreach and engagement services**

**296 clients who received case management moved into interim or other temporary destinations**

**167 unduplicated clients received case management services**





## Spotlight: Opening Doors to Affordable Housing

With real estate prices in San Mateo County among the highest in the nation, the laborers who tend the fields, greenhouses and animals have long had few affordable options for a place to live.

That reality is changing, along San Mateo County's rural coast with an infusion of Measure K funds.

About 1,700 men and women work on the county's farms and nurseries. Nearly all are immigrants, many with families, who earn minimum wage or a little more in jobs most of the domestic labor force does not want.

The COVID-19 pandemic put a spotlight on why this small percentage of the overall workforce – roughly 440,000 individuals in San Mateo County are employed – was deemed essential: No food workers, no food.

The Board of Supervisors has directed Measure K funds toward several programs to help this traditionally low-paid workforce live in safe and healthy housing.

### Loans Improve Housing

The County's Farm Worker Loan Program Pilot, funded by Measure K, was launched in the 2014-15 fiscal year. This program creates a partnership with local landowners who accept a low-interest loan that goes toward repair or replacement of substandard housing for farmworkers who then pay below-market rents.

OVER THE PAST 8 YEARS

**\$3.1 million** has been allocated to the loan program. The County made 7 loans to farm operators to build or renovate 10 units of shared housing for farmworkers

2022-23 FISCAL YEAR

**\$452,502** was expended and four new homes for farmworkers were either completed or significant progress was made

**\$1.02 million** awarded by the County in new funding to two farm operators for a total of five units of new manufactured farmworker housing

## Model Lease

The focus on housing needs for farmworkers revealed that many do not have lease agreements with landlords.

In response, the County in the 2022-23 fiscal year contracted with Puente de la Costa Sur, a Pescadero-based nonprofit agency, to create a "model lease" in English and Spanish. The goal was to create a commonly accepted template that clarifies rights and responsibilities.

In addition, Puente was tasked with developing a bilingual landlord-tenant guide. A total of \$117,5550 from Measure K's "Equity Innovation Fund" were directed toward the projects.

## Expanding the Housing Supply

The mass shooting that left seven workers dead in January 2023 brought renewed attention to the scarcity of housing for the laborers that support the county's \$100 million annual agricultural industry.

To create more housing, the County is partnering with the city of Half Moon Bay to build affordable housing on a city-owned lot. In March 2023, the Board of Supervisors committed \$10 million in Measure K funds toward building farm labor housing and supporting affordable housing construction in the unincorporated areas.

## To End Homelessness, A Focus on Prevention

The County in the 2022-23 fiscal year launched an innovative program to bolster efforts to ending homelessness.

The program, with Measure K funds, provides a pool of \$4 million in vouchers that can be used to bridge the gap between what a formerly homeless individual can pay in rent and the actual rent.

### Work Starts on New Affordable Housing Project in North Fair Oaks



The \$155 million project is funded from a variety of sources, including \$6.78 million from Measure K

### At a Glance

- 179-units
- 1-3 bedroom apartments
- Child care center
- Community open space
- Reserved for households earning between 15%
- 20 apartments set aside for people experiencing homelessness



## PARKS AND ENVIRONMENT

### Inspiring Ways to Enjoy Your County Parks

San Mateo County Parks' Department Interpretive Program provides environmental, historic and cultural activities to strengthen the connection of communities to outdoor experiences and further equitable access to parks and programs.

**2022-23 FISCAL YEAR**

**Nearly 3 million visitors**

Park and community events included:

**SUMMERFEST AT COYOTE POINT RECREATION AREA.** Giant kites in all shapes and sizes powered by bayside wind gusts entertained more than 2,000 visitors as did performances by Grupo Folklórico de San Mateo High School and Kristi Aki Oshiro & Soko Taiko. The all-day event included bike rides, hands-on activity stations, community resource booths and food trucks.

**CAMPING AT MEMORIAL PARK.** First-time campers affiliated with the local nonprofit Casa Circulo Cultural experienced the joy of overnight camping at the historic park, including pitching a tent, night hiking, and making s'mores. The department and San Mateo County Parks Foundation provided camping supplies as did local businesses.

**INTRODUCTION TO OUTDOOR ADVENTURES.** Walking with a ranger and up-close observations of what swims in a creek can spark a life-long appreciation of what nature has to offer everyone. This year, the interpretive team explored San Mateo County Parks with Outdoor Afro, Familias Unidas, Puente and Pacific Islanders Experiencing Fun, Engineering, Science and Technology.



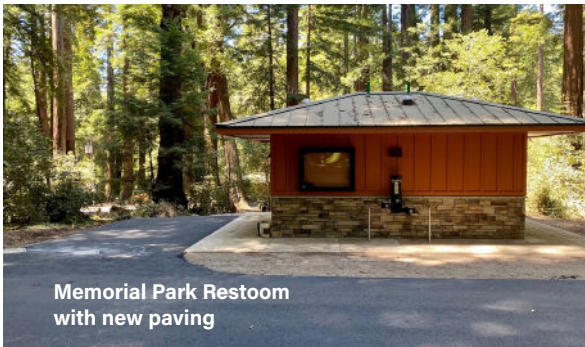
## Memorial Park Restroom and Shower Building Replacement

County Parks in 2022 began the second phase of a project to replace restrooms and showers at Memorial Park.

With funding from Measure K, the project consisted of demolishing six antiquated facilities and constructing six new restroom and shower buildings throughout Memorial Park.

With the project completed, 13 buildings in the campground and day-use areas are new, single-occupant, gender-neutral facilities. Ancillary improvements include accessible parking and a path of travel to all new facilities.

Completion of this project enhances the visitor experience by providing clean, functioning, and reliable restroom and shower facilities. It also creates operational efficiencies for the department by minimizing repairs and maintenance. The installation of safety fencing and new electrical structure were completed in May 2023.



Memorial Park Restroom  
with new paving

## Parkwide Paving Program

County Parks continued to address deferred maintenance and bring paved trails, drive aisles and parking lots up to an acceptable condition. This included focusing on improving the northern portion of Sawyer Camp Trail at the Crystal Springs Regional Trail. Tasks for this phase include replacing 19 failed or failing culverts and resurfacing approximately 3 miles of trail. Parks completed the Sawyer Camp Trail Segment in October 2022.

Following the successful completion of Sawyer Camp Trail, the department is focusing on enhancing paved surfaces at Junipero Serra County Park. An assessment of the current conditions, including accessibility compliance, is currently underway.

Past paving projects include the Huddart Park main entrance road repair as well as intensive repair and pavement overlays throughout Memorial Park's campgrounds and day use areas. Measure K funds contribute to the efforts.

## Creating San Mateo County's Newest Coastal Park

Halfway between Half Moon Bay and Pescadero lies Tunitas Creek Beach, a stunning stretch of coastline framed by sandstone cliffs visible from Highway 1. The Parks Department along with a number of partners, including Peninsula Open Space Trust and the California Coastal Conservancy, are working to transform the 58-acre beach into a new coastal park.

Work, approved in June 2023 and financed in part by Measure K funds, involves building pathways, picnic tables and scenic overlooks. Improving parking and installing public restrooms, ranger facilities and interpretative displays and signage are also planned.

Peninsula Open Space Trust, a nonprofit dedicated to land preservation purchased the site from a private owner before selling it to the County at below market rates.

The new park, with funding from Measure K, is expected to open in mid-2024.



Tunitas Creek Beach



## **OLDER ADULTS AND VETERANS SERVICE**

## **Taking Elder Abuse Out of the Shadows**

Created with funds from Measure K, the County's Elder and Dependent Adult Protection Team has three main objectives:

- Streamline investigations into older and dependent adult abuse.
- Coordinate supportive services to victims.
- Raise awareness through targeted outreach and train potential responders.

### **Why?**

**BY THE YEAR 2030**

**1 out of every 4**

**San Mateo County residents  
is expected to be age 65 or older**

**MEANWHILE**

**approximately 140,000 residents  
live with a disability**

That means predators have a growing base of potential victims. Elder abuse is estimated to impact 10 percent of older adults living at home and to result in losses totaling in the billions of dollars annually, according to research by the California Department of Aging.

Abuse can be financial, physical, emotional or sexual, and can also include neglect or isolation. Signs and symptoms can appear as someone not being cared for, having unexplained bruises, being depressed or anxious or having unusual bank account activity.

The team consists of representatives from County Health's division of Aging and Adult Services, the District Attorney's Office and the County Attorney's Office.

**2022-23 FISCAL YEAR**

**53**

**trainings or information events were held,  
exceeding the target of 50**

### **You Can Stop and Prevent Elder Abuse**

If you are concerned about someone or suspect that a family member, friend, or neighbor may be suffering from abuse, all you need to do is call (844) 868-0938.





## Recognizing Veterans and Their Supporters

Public service is the thick chain that links George Smith's life's work: U.S. Marine, firefighter, volunteer.

Recognizing his dedication, the San Mateo County Veterans Commission honored Smith as the 2022 Veteran of the Year, an award for a local veteran who goes "above and beyond" to serve the community.

The community showed its appreciation for Smith, a Vietnam veteran, at the annual Veterans Recognition Luncheon in November 2022 alongside others dedicated to assisting veterans or organizations that promote veteran causes: Wendy Weller and Andrew Trapani, selected as Patriots of the Year, and the Veterans Surf Alliance as the Enterprise of the Year,

The Board of Supervisors established the Veterans Commission in June 2015 with a mission to promote programs and policies that address the unmet needs of veterans in the county.

The luncheon helps to draw attention to the thousands of veterans who call San Mateo County home and the services offered by the San Mateo County Veterans Services Office, which is supported by Measure K funds.



## Friendship Line Makes Connections

Although California is home to innovations in digital technology,

**“34 percent of adults over 60 do not use the Internet at all,” California’s Master Plan for Aging**

This can lead to isolation as well as limiting opportunities to be active community members. The COVID-19 pandemic brought these issues into greater focus and heightened the need to create connections and improve support for older adults.

One solution is the Friendship Line, which offers in-bound and out-bound calls.

Seniors can call the Friendship Line for 24-hour emotional support and crisis intervention services.

In addition, trained volunteers make outbound phone calls to older adults who request it for emotional support, reassurance, ‘well-being’ check-ins, and crisis intervention. There is no fee for services offered by the Friendship Line.

**2022-23 FISCAL YEAR  
1,922 inbound calls  
were received by the Friendship Line**

**3,049 calls  
were placed by volunteers to seniors**

**ACCORDING TO A SURVEY  
97% of clients  
received the services they needed**



## Digital Equity Portal Connects Public to High-Speed Internet

The Information Services Department maintains the County's Public WiFi program, which provides access to internet-based resources and connects residents to County services.

With the support of Measure K, the County is now supporting more than 600 public WiFi access points to help bridge the digital divide in San Mateo County.

The County in 2014 launched the "SMC Public WiFi" program to help build out this infrastructure and provide these modern on ramps to the resources available online. In addition to servicing unserved and underserved communities, SMC Public WiFi supports educational opportunities for students, spurs local economic development, and provides greater access to County services.

During 2022-23 fiscal year, the performance measure target was to exceed a monthly average of 1 million sessions. The Program surpassed this target by reaching a peak of 1.8 million sessions in August 2022, with a monthly average of 1.1 million sessions.

Free service points are located at or near parks, senior centers, schools, downtowns and other popular destinations from Daly City to East Palo Alto and Pacifica to Pescadero. Find a location near you at [smcgov.org/wifi-locations](http://smcgov.org/wifi-locations).

This success is directly a result of ongoing operational maintenance of the wireless modems and other devices that support the Public Wi-Fi system, ensuring reliable and secure connectivity. The County continues to partner with other government services organizations to understand community needs for broadband access.



## COMMUNITY SERVICES



**600**  
public WiFi  
access points

**1.1**  
million sessions  
monthly average





## Providing Healthy Food for Those Who Need it Most

The County and Second Harvest of Silicon Valley continue to work closely to bridge the hunger gap.

This is done through various activities such as shared outreach and ongoing partnerships with local nonprofit agencies to establish food distribution and application assistance in neighborhoods across San Mateo County.

CalFresh – the state’s version of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – has specific income and citizenship requirements that make it impossible for some households to qualify. Second Harvest, on the other hand, doesn’t have the citizenship requirements and their income limits are more generous than those established for the CalFresh program.

Both programs working together allows for more households to secure meals for their families.

By providing fresh fruits and vegetables and other free groceries, Second Harvest clients can make room in their budgets for unexpected expenses – and for the possibilities that open up when basic needs are met.

2022-34 FISCAL YEAR

**36 million pounds**  
food distributed by Second Harvest, exceeding the target of 16 million pounds

**125,000+**  
individuals were served each month through direct assistance from Second Harvest or through a network of local providers

The County’s Human Services Agency contracts with Second Harvest, with funds from Measure K, to meet community needs.



**SECOND HARVEST**  
of SILICON VALLEY



“I take pictures of the food that I cook, and I share it with my daughter. I think that the healthy food that I prepare is very tasty. Cooking keeps me busy and with a positive outlook. My motto is ‘Food is Medicine.’”  
**Maria**, Second Harvest client





**Measure K  
Oversight Committee**

**Michael Salazar**

District One

**Dan Quigg**

District One

**Sam Hutkins**

District Two

**Ken Chin**

District Two

**David Burow**

District Three

**Bob Grassilli**

District Three

**Michael C. Kovalich**

District Four

**Manuel Ramirez**

District Four

**Holly Lim**

District Five

**Wallace Moore**

District Five





**SUPPORTED BY MEASURE K**  
**LOCALFUNDS**  
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