



Commission Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

1st District: Bruce Saito

2nd District: Reginald Johnson

3rd District: Yvette Lopez-Ledesma

4th District: Oscar Flores

5th District: Mark Mariscal

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OCTOBER 16, 2024

Mission Statement

The role of the Measure A Citizens Oversight Advisory Board (Advisory Board) is to provide public accountability for the use of Measure A funds. Measure A was approved by 75% of voters in November 2016, which authorized dedicated local funding for parks, recreation, open spaces, and their maintenance through an annual special tax on all taxable real property in Los Angeles County (County). The Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) is responsible for implementing and administering Measure A funds. The Advisory Board reviews RPOSD's expenditures to ensure that allocations and expenses are in accordance with the purposes set forth in the Measure A Resolution. The Advisory Board is charged with the following duties:

- Quarterly review of all expenditures from the special tax;
- Ensure that the Measure A program is integrated in RPOSD's annual independent audit by reviewing the audit from an independent audit agency;
- Publish a complete accounting of all allocations each year, posting the information on RPOSD's publicly accessible website, including information about the location and footprint of each funded project, its objectives, status, and outcomes, any matching funds used, and the applicable program from the expenditure plan schedule; and
- At the direction of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS), submit periodic evaluations of the program, which may be undertaken by independent researchers, and identify any changes needed to meet the objectives of the Measure A resolution.

The Advisory Board's fiduciary responsibility aligns with the County's 2024-2030 Strategic Plan's North Star 2: Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities, specifically Focus Area Goal F: Community Connections. This goal emphasizes investments in communities and creating public spaces and programs that are welcoming and accessible, where all residents can build relationships, create social networks, feel connected, and access opportunities. Measure A funds are dedicated to the development and improvement of public spaces such as parks, trails, open spaces, beaches, and recreation programs. These public spaces and programs provide an accessible environment where County residents can meet, interact, build relationships, and foster social connections. Parks host various activities and events, such as community gatherings, concerts, classes, and sports, which encourage social interaction and bonding among participants over shared interests. Additionally, all Measure A grant agreements include a nondiscrimination clause, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their race, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, religious belief, national origin, marital status, physical or mental handicap, medical condition, or place of residency, can participate in and utilize any property, facility, or recreational program, acquired or developed with Measure A funds.

Furthermore, Measure A is the County's first equity-based funding for parks and recreation, with a specific focus on the park-deficient communities identified by the 2016 Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment. Measure A has a dedicated category of annually allocated funds for the high park-need areas, a Technical Assistance Program that provides high park-need areas with additional resources targeted at acquiring new parkland, and a commitment to reserve a portion of competitive grant funds for projects in high park-need areas. The Advisory Board's oversight of RPOSD's expenditures and periodic evaluation of the Measure A program ensures that RPOSD's implementation of Measure A fulfills voters' intent and enhances the quality of life for County residents.

Historical Background

The formation and operation of the Advisory Board is mandated by Measure A under Section 7: Community Oversight and Accountability of the Measure A Resolution (Resolution). The Resolution specifies that the Advisory Board be composed of five members appointed by the BOS, which acts as the governing body of RPOSD. The BOS appointed Advisory Board members are community representatives possessing knowledge and expertise in parks, park development, evaluating financial transactions, and/or program cost-effectiveness. Once appointed, Advisory Board members serve a term of four years at the pleasure of the BOS, and no member may serve more than two consecutive terms. In the event of a vacancy arising during the term, the BOS is responsible for appointing a successor to complete the unexpired term.

The first term of the Advisory Board, which began in January 2020, comprised of the following members: David Diaz (First Supervisorial District), Reginald Johnson (Second Supervisorial District), Veronica Padilla (Third Supervisorial District), Melissa Balocca (Fourth Supervisorial District), and Mark Mariscal (Fifth Supervisorial District), concluded in December 2023. At the conclusion of the first term, Advisory Board Members Johnson and Mariscal were reappointed for a second term and Bruce Saito and Yvette Lopez-Ledesma were appointed by the First and Third Supervisorial Districts respectively. During this period, the Fourth Supervisorial District's appointee was pending.

The Advisory Board has an established schedule of regular meetings on a quarterly basis, specifically in January, April, July, and October. Over the course of the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2024, the Advisory Board convened twice. Despite efforts, the Advisory Board was unable to convene the meetings in July 2023 and January 2024 due to lack of quorum.

During the meetings in October 2023 and April 2024, the Advisory Board remained consistent with its duties. It reviewed a total of two quarterly status reports along with the RPOSD FY 22-23 Annual Report.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

The Advisory Board fosters an environment that encourages participation from the public and stakeholders. To ensure accessibility, the Advisory Board maintained a hybrid meeting format, allowing the public to attend either in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams. This approach maximizes public access to the meetings and accommodates those who may not be able to attend in person by enabling remote participation.

Furthermore, the Advisory Board provides an opportunity for the public to address the Advisory Board during the designated public comment period at each meeting, regarding matters within its purview. Moreover, aware of the diversity of County residents' communication styles, the Advisory Board offers two avenues for the public to address the Advisory Board:

1. Public comments can be written and submitted prior to the meeting via email to info@rposd.lacounty.gov or online on the [Advisory Board webpage](#) on [RPOSD's website](#). The comments will be read aloud by an RPOSD staff during the meeting.

2. The public can present its comments live or by writing in the chat box and the comments are read aloud by an RPOSD staff.

The Advisory Board has also continued to encourage RPOSD to utilize social media and explore other channels to promote Advisory Board meetings and available Measure A funding opportunities. The meetings are publicized at RPOSD headquarters, online at [RPOSD.LACounty.gov](https://www.rposd.lacounty.gov), through email blasts, and various social media platforms, and the meetings are Brown Act compliant.

The Advisory Board's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion is evident through its support of RPOSD's Technical Assistance Program (TAP). This program offers technical assistance and resources to high park-need areas, where many local park and grant-seeking entities often lack the organizational capacity, technical knowledge, expertise, and resources to successfully plan, execute, and complete park projects. Through TAP, these entities receive resources at no cost, including training, educational workshops, and professional consulting services, to advance park development projects that will lead to the expansion or development of parks, trails, and more in the park-poor communities, thereby working towards the Measure A goal of achieving park equity.

Annual Work Plan

The following is the Advisory Board's timeline for the completion of each duty:

- Review the Quarterly Status Report four times a year;
- Review the annual independent audit of RPOSD once a year;
- Review and publish an accounting of all Measure A allocations once a year; and
- Periodically evaluate the Measure A program at the BOS' direction.

Accomplishments

As members of the community and experts in their respective fields, the Advisory Board Members' personal and professional insights guided RPOSD to accomplish the following during this fiscal year:

- Generated over \$117 million in revenue from Measure A.
- Allocated more than \$37.7 million in annual funding to the 88 cities and unincorporated communities throughout the County, including High and Very High Need Study Areas.
- Allocated an additional \$14 million in annual funding specifically to High Need or Very High Need Study Areas.
- Awarded 78 Measure A grants, totaling \$47.4 million. A total of 30 projects funded by Measure A were completed during the fiscal year.
- Awarded 3 Proposition A grants, totaling \$7 million. A total of 23 projects funded by Proposition A was completed during this fiscal year.
- Underwent an internal reorganization and created a new section within RPOSD dedicated exclusively to administering TAP and program grants.
- Issued 17 TAP Notices to Proceed, totaling over \$2.5 million, to high park-need entities for pre-park development technical assistance.
- Hosted two information sessions to educate high park-need entities on managing projects on contaminated lands and strategies to improve and strengthen grant writing.

- Held the first “Link into TAP” live event with 50 participants at Earvin “Magic” Johnson Park, providing networking opportunities and educational sessions for TAP entities.
- BOS proclaimed November 7, 2023, as “Regional Park and Open Space District Day” and commended RPOSD on its 30th anniversary as stewards and advocates of parks and open spaces in Los Angeles County.
- Since its inception, RPOSD has awarded over \$1.7 billion in Proposition A and Measure A funding towards parks, open spaces, beaches, trails, natural areas, and public parklands in the County.
- Released an updated edition of the Measure A Grants Administration Manual in January 2024 with a more streamlined grant administration process.
- Revamped the Direct Labor Reimbursement Claim form to increase efficiency and flexibility, allowing grantees to recover overhead costs and maintenance and service project supplies costs more effectively. Two forms were created to accommodate grantees’ different accounting systems.
- Continued efforts to upgrade the Grants Management System. RPOSD plans to release a competitive solicitation for the new system in August 2024.

This report was compiled on behalf of the Advisory Board by



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT