

PROPOSED FLOOD CONTROL PARCEL TAX FOR NOVATO

To reduce community and roadway flooding, restore creek and marsh habitat, and begin adapting to sea level rise, the Flood Control Zone 1 Advisory Board and the Marin County Board of Supervisors recommended placing a parcel tax on the November 2017 ballot.

Novato’s flood infrastructure experienced almost \$1.7 million in damages last winter. The current \$2 million budget is not enough to repair the storm damage and construct new projects to reduce flooding. Local funds would also improve the Zone’s ability to attract state and federal grants. The proposed tax measure would provide an additional \$1.1 million in annual revenue, raising an estimated \$19.8 million over 18 years.

The baseline tax would be \$47 per single-family home. Rates would vary by land use and parcel size for commercial and multi-family units. An exemption for low-income seniors is included.

Here are some of the project types that could be funded with tax measure revenue and the allocations that are recommended:



Reduce community and roadway flooding in the City of Novato [20%]

- Reduce roadway flooding by fixing pipes and drains identified in the City of Novato’s Stormwater Master Plan
- Funds can only be spent on priority city drainage projects



Reduce flooding and restore habitat [50%]

- Widen lower Novato Creek to reduce flooding
- Restore tidal marsh habitat for fish, wildlife and birds
- Restore tidal action to promote natural movement of sediment
- Provide local funding match to help leverage state and federal restoration grant funds



Repair storm damaged flood protection facilities [30%]

- Repair storm-damaged levees east of Highway 101
- Begin adapting levees to sea level rise
- Repair and replace aging stormwater pumps

Flood Zone 1 is our largest flood control zone that includes the entire city of Novato plus a sizeable amount of unincorporated area around the City. The County Board of Supervisors is the District’s Board.

For more information, please visit: www.MarinWatersheds.org/novato.html

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Any new parcel tax funds can only be spent within Novato’s Flood Zone 1.

Without Parcel Tax

Funding limited to:

- A fixed portion of ad valorem property tax of about 2%
- A maintenance assessment passed by voters in 1984, where most single family parcels pay \$9 per year

Without a parcel tax:

- Maintenance to four pump stations may be deferred
- Five miles of levees may continue to degrade
- Sediment removal from creeks may be less frequent
- There will be limited ability to assess and correct flooding problems
- There will be limited funding for new restoration projects and adapting to sea level rise. Grant projects require local revenue to secure and manage grant funds. Most grants require a local match.

With Proposed Parcel Tax

Proposed Funding (plus existing sources)

- \$47 per single-family parcel per year for 18 years (proposed)

Additional funding could go to:

- Improve water quality in creeks, wetlands and the Bay
- Restore creek and wetland habitat for fish, birds, and wildlife
- Reduce roadway flooding by funding high-priority City storm drainage projects
- Repair storm-damaged levees and pumps
- Begin adaptation to sea level rise
- Design and construct flood projects that restore habitat
- Provide local match to attract state and federal grants

To learn more, attend a Zone 1 Advisory Board meeting. View meeting information at:
http://www.marinwatersheds.org/fz_advisory.html#zone1



For more information, contact:
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