Summary

The county received comments from the public at four community budget meetings in March, and also sought online comments through April 3. In addition, the county asked the public to vote on their priorities. Suggestions for projects to be funded by Measure S were wide-ranging, but several themes emerged through the voting results and comments received.

Voting Results

The ballot language for Measure S stated that funds generated by the measure could be used for a variety of broad services. Members of the community voted for their top two service priorities at each of the budget meetings and online. In total, there were 974 votes cast.

Following is a listing of the services from the ballot language and how the community voted:

- 10.1% 98 votes Public Safety
- 9.1% 89 votes Job Creation
- 4.6% 45 votes Crime Investigation/prosecution
- 14.9% 145 votes Environmental Cleanup and Restoration
- 32.6% 318 votes Children and Family Mental Health Services
- 12.7% 124 votes Drug Rehabilitation
- 15.9% 155 votes Other Services

Comments received

The service categories described above are very broad. As a result, citizens were invited to tell the county which actions or “strategies” within these service categories they would like to have funded by Measure S. For example, a popular Public Safety strategy the community wanted to see funded was to have a Deputy Sheriff team up with Mental Health to ensure that a portion of those who come in to contact with law enforcement could receive much-needed mental health services.

It should be noted that the broad category of Children and Family Mental Health Services received more than twice as many votes of any other category. The most popular strategies within that category included 1 – Prevention of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and 2 – Family Resource Center Mental Health Clinicians. In addition, a popular theme expressed across all services was a desire to “return to source,” or ensure that the funds are spent in areas that generate the revenue.

Following is a breakdown of how citizens voted in each category and some of the themes that were expressed during the meetings and online.
MEASURE S SERVICES

Full voting results:
PUBLIC SAFETY

Top themes that emerged during discussions at the budget meetings include:

- Increased manpower and teaming up with mental health staff
- Drug treatment and ensuring that offenders receive the treatment they need
- Focus on enforcement of unpermitted cannabis cultivation operation

Full voting results:

Common terms received online:
JOB CREATION

Top themes that emerged during discussions at the budget meetings include:

- Housing and the need to increase affordable housing
- Recruiting healthcare professionals, nurses and doctors with incentives and higher wages
- Helping cannabis industry with marketing

Full voting results:

Common terms received online:
CRIME INVESTIGATION/PROSECUTION

Top themes that emerged during discussions at the budget meetings include:

- More follow-through with code enforcement
- Enforcement regarding environmental cleanup
- Support for a pretrial diversion program

Full voting results:

Common terms received online:
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

Top themes that emerged during discussions at the budget meetings include:

- The need for more manpower for public, private cleanup activities
- Greater enforcement from different agencies, and compliance through education
- Support for funds for the cleanup and restoration of orphan spills where there is no clear responsible party

Full voting results:

Common terms received online:
CHILDREN AND FAMILY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Top themes that emerged during discussions at the budget meetings include:

- Prevention of childhood trauma
- On-site clinicians and service providers
- Recruiting Mental Health staff

Full voting results:

Common terms received online:
DRUG REHABILITATION

Top themes that emerged during discussions at the budget meetings include:

- Trauma-informed residential treatment where individuals can bring children
- Transitional housing
- Local drug and mental health treatment services

Full voting results:

Common terms received online:
OTHER COUNTY SERVICES

Top themes that emerged during discussions at the budget meetings include:

- Roads
- Return to source
- Incentivize compliance with cannabis ordinances

Full voting results:

Common terms received online: