

August 15, 2023,

Stormwater Fee Protest
c/o city Clerk
330 W 20th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403

I am a property owner at [REDACTED] and I'm writing to protest the stormwater fee that I think is unnecessary. California is supposedly in a continuous drought and the flooding that occurred in December 2022 and January 2023 was the fault of the city. On my street on New Year's Eve, we found wood chips from nearby Laurie Meadows Park. The whole street was covered in wood chips that went into the storm drain and was backing up the drain. Neighbors were able to clear the chips from the drains and cleared the stoppage throughout the neighborhood. We saw huge piles of wood chips at Laurie Meadows Park which is the reason we had flooding in the village. We also noticed that there were no city trucks or personnel in the area to clear the blockage as we have seen in the past. I have lived in San Mateo for almost 30 years and don't recall any problems with flood control during my residency.

Other neighbors reported that the humongous, oversized water pump in Laurel Creek that runs between Casanova Park and Laurie Meadows Park only had one or two pumps on during this time wasn't running being used efficiently. I firmly believe the flooding in San Mateo was due to human error. Additional money isn't going to fix the problems within the Public Works Department or make it run efficiently if the right personnel aren't engaged to run the department.

We have paid for several oversized pumps that weren't even turned on properly in Laurel Creek. I am also paying for flood control for an area that I don't live in by the San Francisco Bay. I haven't heard of an investigation into the lack of action by city personnel during the flood to help alleviate it. I drove by Pacific Blvd and 42nd Avenue several times during the flooding and never saw any city trucks or personnel working on clearing the drains. I noticed the same on County Road and Ralston and Harbor, no city or county personnel working to clear the road so it dried fine naturally but took longer without help. We heard who is responsible for these failures or who put the piles of wood chips in the park that caused the flooding. This was a travesty and a failure of city services.

For these reasons, the proposed floodwater fee is a fraud to steal money from San Mateo residents and should be aborted. It is an orchestrated money fraud that is being perpetuated in several cities throughout the bay area. One storm with intentionally clogged drains in the middle of a drought doesn't open the floodgates to bilk millions of dollars from property owners.

Sincerely yours,

Cynthia McReynolds
[REDACTED]

'23AUG17 1:12PM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 10, 2023 7:44 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: IS THE FLOOD PREVENTION TAX WORTH IT?

I hope you can take the emotion out of this issue and look at it objectively.

It's all about efficient use of our tax dollars to deal with flood damage with an understanding of the costs/benefits, probability/risks. The city does not even know how many properties were flood damaged, the costs and location of the highest costs in the 2022/23 flood. There was no survey done or possible financial modeling.

Yes, we have had flooding several times in the past 50 years. There is no data on the damage, but I don't remember anything like 2022/23, so a 50 or 100 year cycle likely still applies.

There are 29,000 residential and business properties in San Mateo. Most flood damage was east of the railroad tracks and "heavily located near lagoon, channel and creek inlets and several interior locations" the city says. Based on observation and conversations, let's guesstimate that around 500-1000 properties were damaged which would mean 96-98% of San Mateo were not affected. Of those, maybe 90-95% had less than \$2K in damages.

Is it really necessary to provide an additional \$4M/year plus inflation INDEFINITELY for a relatively small number of properties, most likely with relatively low damage costs for a flood event that may not happen for another 50 or 100 years? The city says it needs a LOT more money than the \$4M/year to provide assurance that little future flooding will occur and that "storms of unanticipated intensity could still overwhelm the system"

Instead, let's spend a LOT less and put aside a community relief fund to be distributed if a major flood happens sooner and just enough for critical preventative maintenance (The city council has already recently authorized \$3M to be spent on flood prevention infrastructure, fixing lagoon pumps and other things)

Respectfully,

Gary Isoardi

John Weingand

From: Theresa Loftin
Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 8:21 AM
To: Jimmy H. Vo
Cc: Matt Fabry
Subject: FW: Community Flood and Storm Protection Fee Protest

Good morning -

From: Jason Wolfson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 7, 2023 5:12 PM
To: Public Works <publicworks@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Community Flood and Storm Protection Fee Protest

To whom it may concern:

I just received the proposal for a monthly fee for flood and storm protection and am quite frustrated. We bought our home in 2021, pay over \$20k a year in property taxes, including an increase in sewer taxes, and now are being asked to pay more?

I am formally protesting this fee, and would like to see a breakdown of how taxes are currently being used. While I love Sunnybrae, I already am frustrated with how little San Mateo does to keep the streets, foliage, and shopping centers look up to date and beautiful.

Happy to speak with someone further on this matter.

Best,
Jason Wolfson

John Weingand

From: Patrice Olds
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 10:39 AM
To: Jimmy H. Vo
Subject: FW: B St Autumn Festival Community Event

From: Laurie Strange <strange@cityofsanmateo.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 1, 2023 8:25 PM
To: Alex Khojikian <akhojikian@cityofsanmateo.org>
Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: FW: B St Autumn Festival Community Event

From: Doris Nishimoto [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 1, 2023 8:41 AM
To: City Mgr <citymgr@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Richard Hedges <rhedges@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Noel Nish [REDACTED]
Cc: David Canepa <dcanepa@smcgov.org>; curtis@smdailyjournal.com
Subject: B St Autumn Festival Community Event

Hi City Manager and City Council,

On Saturday, City of San Mateo had the Autumn Festival on B St.

There was a table of 2 women disseminating information about 2 community issues:

1. Seniors and the problems they face
2. Vote YES for supplemental tax to prevent flooding by getting money to apply for a matching grant for infrastructure.

Both women told me that protests is the only way to affect change in this community. I responded that my way is to write directly to the City if I can contribute any ideas; whether the City Council accepts these ideas is up to them.

They seemed to think that "democracy" meant a show of force in numbers.

However, it was Thomas Jefferson who said, "Tsj r fs | nmhtzwlj xfr fdwy~3"

Nj}uqfnsji yt ymjxj | tr js ymfytzwhtr r zsnr-kr twj ktwzsfyj ymfs ymj wjxytkymj | twilymfy | j fwj styrs
Zpwfrsj@stfwj | j kilmysl ymj Ijslj Uqfvzj st | ns Gfsljijxm3 Ymxiri stywjlxyjw | nm ymjr fxymj~ | jwj
kthzxji ts ymjrwutgqjr x3

I said that if the City of SM could work within their budget and reel in spending, then we would be in better shape. ALL companies in this current economy are doing that.

The Lady at the Seniors Desk told me that voters passed the bike lanes project; but now, Seniors are having a hard time crossing streets and this bike lane idea is not working for Seniors. So, they want a reversal of this in certain areas Seniors use. This sounds reasonable to me. (Also a Senior at 71 1/2 YO). This is restricted and does not apply to ALL bike lanes. Please hear her group out if they come to City Hall and grant them what they want.

The second lady showed me photos of her home flooding due to the last 31 atmospheric river storms and the need to get the supplemental flood fee passed. I told her that City of SM missed their opportunity to get grant money because I had contacted FEMA directly and was told that the City had not applied. This lady confirmed what I had said.

Consumer Protection is what California is all about. This lady actually has a right to sue the City for this flood damage to her property in that the City failed to protect her (like people are suing PGE for fire losses and loss of life due to not maintaining power lines). I didn't tell her this; because she thinks that taxing all property owners will get the money to allow City of San Mateo to apply for this FEMA grant *next time*.

How many parcels out of the total number of parcels in the City of San Mateo flooded out?

Although the fee seems small, \$8.00/yr on each parcel; this is IN PERPETUITY. Taxes in City of SM never go down; they only go UP. Property owners are wondering where all that collected money is going to. It looks like misappropriation of taxpayer funds. We should have had a huge reserve for infrastructure as an ongoing maintenance project already. Property taxes are equivalent to HOA reserves. What happened? Where did the money go?

Hiking property taxes is NOT the solution to your problems without making reeling in spending at City Hall. Also, making the entire community pay for infrastructure of this billion dollar magnitude is unrealistic going forward. This is what is driving people out of the community.

We haven't fully recovered from the Pandemic, so asking property owners to make up the difference is ASKING ALOT. Property owners are also struggling now in the current economy.

These types of billion dollar (and in the future, trillion dollar) projects are federal government projects (like BART and CALTRAIN); not something the average working man or woman can handle.

Doris Nishimoto, D.D.S.



John Weingand

From: Public Works
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2023 4:37 PM
To: Matt Fabry; Brad Underwood
Cc: Jimmy H. Vo
Subject: FW: Community Flood and Storm Protection Fee

-----Original Message-----

From: Henry Riggs [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2023 4:11 PM
To: Public Works <publicworks@cityofsanmateo.org>
Cc: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Community Flood and Storm Protection Fee

Matthew Fabry
Acting Public Works Director

Re: Stormwater Fee, letter of July 31

Mr Fabry

I firmly object to the proposed added fee on properties for stormwater system expenses. My community, North Central, has only recently agreed to a property tax levy for the bay flood levies that were just completed to protect our neighborhood - which in fact has never flooded since I arrived in 1997, including in 1998 and in 2023.

Property owners pay dearly in real estate taxes - an "entry level" 1.5M property pays over 15,000 annually towards county and city services, dramatically more than when I bought such a property, far more than inflation. Many of us feel there is no shortage of income, only an excess of spending outside of hard infrastructure.

While the city has repeatedly over-promised in golden pensions for the full range of municipal employees, we residents are asked for ever increasing payments, with emphasis on property owners, as if housing were not already prohibitively expensive.

If your department needs more money for basic services, I suggest the city should never have deferred storm system maintenance. Council may need to rein in social programs, must rein in pension promises, and must get the city's house in order before further penalizing your residents.

Respectfully,

Henry Riggs
[REDACTED]

John Weingand

From: Public Works
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2023 7:54 AM
To: Jimmy H. Vo
Subject: FW: Community Flood and Storm Protection Fee

From: cristina roces [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 8:51 PM
To: Public Works <publicworks@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Community Flood and Storm Protection Fee

Hello,

I received correspondence regarding the above-referenced subject matter on collecting a fee for flood and storm protection. I am opposed to this fee, and so is my husband.

Does this email suffice as a written protest, or do I need to do something different before October 16?

We would be more in favor of affected areas or homes pay the proposed fee. I have a home formerly in a flood zone and had to pay for flood insurance for years. I didn't rely on the community to pay my flood insurance. If our home is an affected flood area, I'd be happy to pay this fee.

In conclusion I think only homeowners in affected areas should pay the fee and we feel it should not be all of San Mateo residents expected to pay the fee.

Thank you,
Cristina

John Weingand

From: Theresa Loftin
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Jimmy H. Vo
Cc: Matt Fabry
Subject: FW: storm water drainage system

FYI

From: Elena Angeli [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2023 11:26 AM
To: Public Works <publicworks@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: storm water drainage system

Dear Public Works,

We know you have a big job in our city.

We are in receipt of the second mailing regarding storm water systems and upgrades. I support the measure to update this necessary system, but I want to point out the obvious flaw in recent city requests:

I live in North Central; we were highly impacted by the "bike lane project." I realize the decisions and moneys were appropriated years before the project went into action, but I have a hard time over-looking how poorly the city council handled the matter; how railroaded we felt by the project: it was going to happen no matter what we said or how outdated the plan had become. And the cost of it came in the form of money, stress, and daily impact for parking anywhere near our own homes.

We support city updating—otherwise we would crumble—but if millions of dollars can be funneled to support a bike lane project that was mishandled, and mis-placed (E. Poplar Ave was NOT the correct street to do it!,) *we have to question all financial requests from the city in the same light.*

I believe the neighborhood of North Central paid dearly in parking, stress, and frustration with the bike lane. Maybe those houses on the hillside that have dug and shifted earth for their homes should handle the burden of financing the storm system more than my neighborhood? The bike lane—which my window overlooks—is BARELY used. BARELY: and not entirely necessary. But storm water systems are necessary for all. I don't feel our neighborhood should have to handle this financial burden when we are already strapped with dealing with the loss of parking as a result of the unused and unnecessary "bike laMe."

While my comments are not likely to change anything at this point of your project, I think it is important to voice my opinion so City can be more mindful of who is shouldering the burdens of projects-- necessary or vain.

Good luck with your measure.
Elena Angeli
[REDACTED]

John Weingand

From: Theresa Loftin
Sent: Monday, August 7, 2023 9:34 AM
To: Jimmy H. Vo
Cc: Matt Fabry
Subject: FW: Stormwater

Forwarding for a response.

From: Martin Thomas [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 5, 2023 1:37 PM
To: Public Works <publicworks@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Stormwater

Hello,

What is the best way to speak or vote against the propose stormwater fee? There are for more important things and real issues that need to be addressed in my humble opinion.

Is the only option to come to the community meeting or is there a way to vote against it online?

Thanks,

Marty

John Weingand

From: Theresa Loftin
Sent: Monday, August 7, 2023 8:51 AM
To: Jimmy H. Vo
Cc: Matt Fabry
Subject: Proposed Stormwater Fees

Forwarding for a response.

From: Dorothy Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 6, 2023 11:50 AM
To: Public Works <publicworks@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Proposed Stormwater Fees

To Whom It Concerns:

I've received your notice regarding the proposed stormwater fee rates and would like to know if these fees are in addition to those, I'm already paying under the So Bayfront Levee Assmt. Residents in particular areas of San Mateo were requested to pay for improvements to protect properties against flooding several years ago. We voted and approved this improvement but now, it seems, you are asking us to double pay. At the time this issue came up it was pointed out that all of San Mateo would benefit this improvement at our expense. The city obviously needs to prepare for flood and rising seas, but I feel I've been doing that and another tax on top of what I've been paying is unfair.

Dorothy Miller

[REDACTED]

San Mateo, CA

John Weingand

From: Theresa Loftin
Sent: Monday, August 7, 2023 8:49 AM
To: Jimmy H. Vo
Cc: Matt Fabry
Subject: Community Flood and Storm Protection Fee

From: Kathleen Maher [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 6, 2023 12:02 PM
To: Public Works <publicworks@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Community Flood and Storm Protection Fee

To Whom it May Concern,

Being in the middle of the inflation we are in now, with the cost of just getting to work and extra work to keep up with all the increases of bills we are all experiencing, you want to charge me more fees????? Amazing how government seems to always have a bottomless check book!

ABSOLUTELY NOT. You folks have a lot of guts.

Kathleen Maher