

# **SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS 1**

## **BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

**DATE OF MEETING: MARCH 9, 2021**

**TIME: 6:00 P.M.**

*The agenda packet for this meeting was distributed/posted on February 25, 2021. Communications in this supplement were received after 5pm on February 22, 2021. This communication packet was distributed/posted on March 4, 2021.*

### **Consent Calendar**

*Each item in this supplement follows the corresponding item on the City Council Agenda for this date.*

**Item #5: Referral Response: Deferral of Remaining Permit, Inspection, Connection, and Impact Fees for 2009 Addison Street and Referral to the City Manager to Develop a Limited-Term Citywide Fee Deferral Program**

41. Supplemental material, submitted by the Office of Economic Development

**Item #19: Support Vision 2025 for Sustainable Food Policies**

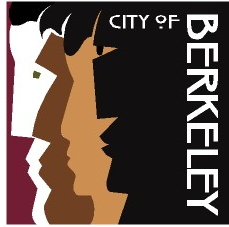
42. Revised material, submitted by Councilmember Kesarwani

**Item #21: Budget Referral: Allocate Transportation Network Companies User's Tax Proceeds and other General Fund Revenues to Support Priority Protected Bicycle Boulevards and the Street Repair Program**

43. Revised material, submitted by Councilmember Harrison

**Item #24: Affirming the City of Berkeley's Support for the People of Tibet**

44. Tenzin Lungrig, General Secretary of Tibetan Assoc. of Northern CA



Office of the City Manager

## **SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA MATERIAL for Supplemental Packet 1**

**Meeting Date:** March 9, 2021

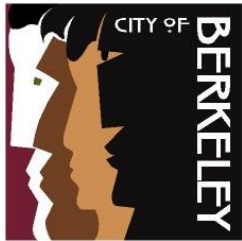
**Item Number:** 5

**Item Description:** Referral Response: Deferral of Remaining Permit, Inspection, Connection, and Impact Fees for 2009 Addison Street and Referral to the City Manager to Develop a Limited-Term Citywide Fee Deferral Program

**Submitted by:** Eleanor Hollander, Acting Manager, Office of Economic Development

In evaluating the fee deferral request, city staff updated its short and long-term projections for the Permit Service Center Fund. At the Budget and Finance Policy Committee on February 25, 2021 (which occurred after this council item was submitted), city staff provided an update on the financial condition of the Permit Service Center Fund, along with an initial outline of potential revenue-generating and cost containment measures should the City experience a slowdown in construction activity. Materials provided to the Budget and Finance Policy Committee by the Planning and Development department are submitted to City Council in this Supplemental Report in the two attached documents:

1. Permit Service Center (PSC) Fund Status Update (February 25, 2021)
2. Permit Service Center Fund Update and Projection (February 25, 2021)



Planning Department

Date: February 25, 2021  
To: Budget & Finance Policy Committee  
From: Jordan Klein, Interim Director, Planning & Development Department  
Pankti Clerk, Administrative & Fiscal Services Manager  
Subject: Permit Service Center (PSC) Fund Status Update

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This memo provides an update on the Permit Service Center Fund, including projections for fund revenues over the next five years and strategies for maintaining a balanced fund and stable reserve into the future.

### **Background**

The Permit Service Center (PSC) Fund is an enterprise fund administered by the Planning & Development Department (Department) to collect revenues and expend funds for services related to the review and issuance of a variety of permits, including building permits, zoning permits, fire permits, and public works permits. The fund is established based on state laws that authorize municipalities to assess permit fees, and fund expenses are limited to activities related to construction permits and land use entitlements.

PSC Fund revenues comprise approximately 75% of the Department's total budget, and contributes funding for approximately 90% of the Department's employees, including all 43 employees in the Building & Safety Division. The fund also covers expenses for 9 employees in other departments (Public Works, Fire, and Human Resources).

### **Fund Balance**

The PSC Fund maintains a fund balance that primarily consists of fees received for outstanding services to be provided (including application review, plan checks and inspections). As the Fund builds a reserve over time, the Department relies on it to make investments in essential infrastructure upgrades, such as a recent overhaul of the Permit Service Center and a planned upgrade to the City's digital permitting software. A healthy fund balance also enables the Department to continue the steady provision of services during periods of economic contraction. An independent auditor recently recommended that the Department maintain a fund balance equal to one year of expenses. The FY20 year end fund balance was \$14.8M; FY20 expenses were \$17.8M.

### **Fund Projections**

Historically, the development and construction industry has experienced 7- to 10-year activity cycles. During periods of economic contraction, the industry's activity slows, resulting in a lag in corresponding reductions in municipal revenues related to

development. The last down period occurred roughly a decade ago, and therefore it would be prudent to plan for an upcoming downturn in PSC Fund revenues. An additional complicating factor is the COVID-19 pandemic, whose impacts on the industry are difficult to forecast. While building permit activity has held steady during the pandemic, staff have observed a decline in zoning permit applications that may signal an upcoming decline in building activity.

Planning & Development Department staff developed fund projections to guide the development of the Department's budget and planned expenditures for FY22 and beyond. To inform these projections, staff evaluated past performance of the Fund, including the period during and following the last downturn; analyzed the current development pipeline and projected revenues associated with those anticipated projects; consulted with staff in other municipalities that are also developing forecasts; and consulted with clients and members of Berkeley's development community.

### *Revenues*

Given the uncertainty inherent to these projections, staff developed three potential revenue scenarios (see Attachment 1 PSC Fund Scenarios):

- A conservative scenario that projects a 20% decline through FY22 and slow recovery;
- A mid-range scenario that projects a less dramatic decline and quicker recovery to pre-pandemic average revenue levels; and
- An optimistic scenario that projects a 10% decline through FY22 and a rapid recovery (by 2023) to pre-pandemic average revenue levels.

### *Expenses*

Personnel costs are anticipated to rise by 3% annually. Non-personnel expenses are anticipated to rise by 2% annually. The projections do not include expenses related to new digital permitting software, increases in inter-departmental transfers, or any projections for fee deferrals under consideration for the Berkeley Repertory Theater's project at 2009 Addison (or for any other projects).

### *Fund Balance*

Each of the three scenarios will require the use of reserve funds to sustain operations. In the conservative and mid-range scenarios, the fund balance is projected to fall to zero within the next 3 to 5 years, absent a reduction in expenditures.

## **Fund Balancing Strategies**

These forecasts imply that the PSC Fund faces structural challenges that will require a multi-faceted strategy to balance the fund. Possible measures include:

- Reduce non-personnel expenditures.
  - As permit application volume declines, reduce expenditures on contract services for permit review.
  - Defer investment in new digital permitting software (approximately \$4M) until it is clear that the PSC Fund can support the expense.
  - Avoid any new major capital expenditures.

- Ensure fee waivers and long-term deferrals are back-filled by other funding sources.
- As permit application volume declines, leverage natural attrition to temporarily hold positions vacant until permit activity rebounds.
- Conduct a fee analysis and update the department's fee schedule. The last update was completed in 2017.

### **Next Steps**

Staff will continue to analyze revenues and update projections on a monthly and quarterly basis. The Planning & Development Department will present its FY22 budget proposal to the Budget & Finance Committee in April.

### **Attachments:**

#### **1. PSC Fund Scenarios**

Cc: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
Paul Buddenhagen, Deputy City Manager  
David White, Deputy City Manager  
Teresa Berkeley-Simmons, Budget Manager  
Rama Murty, Senior Management Analyst

### Permit Service Center Fund Projection: Mid-Range Scenario

	FY 2016 Actuals	FY 2017 Actuals	FY 2018 Actuals	FY 2019 Actuals	FY 2020 Actuals	FY2021 Projected	FY 2022 Projected	FY 2023 Projected	FY 2024 Projected	FY 2025 Projected
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	12.62 M	11.23 M	11.49 M	12.65 M	11.99 M	14.75 M	13.26 M	8.75 M	4.46 M	.42 M
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>14.90 M</b>	<b>17.61 M</b>	<b>16.86 M</b>	<b>15.74 M</b>	<b>20.50 M</b>	<b>16.88 M</b>	<b>14.35 M</b>	<b>15.07 M</b>	<b>15.82 M</b>	<b>17.01 M</b>
<i>Comparison to Prior Year</i>		118%	96%	93%	130%	82%	85%	105%	105%	108%
<b>Expenditures</b>	16.28 M	17.35 M	15.69 M	16.40 M	17.74 M	<b>18.37 M</b>	<b>18.85 M</b>	<b>19.36 M</b>	<b>19.86 M</b>	<b>20.39 M</b>
<i>Personnel</i>	9.32 M	9.95 M	11.22 M	11.11 M	12.21 M	11.52 M	11.87 M	12.22 M	12.59 M	12.97 M
<i>Non-Personnel</i>	6.96 M	7.38 M	4.38 M	4.78 M	5.51 M	6.80 M	6.94 M	7.07 M	7.22 M	7.36 M
<i>Transfers</i>		.03 M	.10 M	.51 M	.03 M	.05 M	.05 M	.06 M	.06 M	.06 M
<b>Annual Surplus/Shortfall</b>	-1.38 M	.25 M	1.16 M	-.66 M	2.76 M	-1.49 M	-4.50 M	-4.29 M	-4.05 M	-3.38 M
<b>Ending Balance</b>	11.23 M	11.49 M	12.65 M	11.99 M	14.75 M	13.26 M	8.75 M	4.46 M	.42 M	-2.96 M

#### Notes & Assumptions:

1. FY21 revenue projection is equal to budgeted amount.
2. Revenue projections for FY23-FY25 based on mixed performance from FY16-FY20.
3. Personnel expenditures are projected based on FY21 budgeted payroll expenditures with 3% annual increase.
4. Non-personnel expenditure based on FY21 budgeted expenditures with 2% annual increase.

### Permit Service Center Fund Projection: Conservative Scenario

	FY 2016 Actuals	FY 2017 Actuals	FY 2018 Actuals	FY 2019 Actuals	FY 2020 Actuals	FY2021 Projected	FY 2022 Projected	FY 2023 Projected	FY 2024 Projected	FY 2025 Projected
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	12.62 M	11.23 M	11.49 M	12.65 M	11.99 M	14.75 M	12.38 M	6.33 M	-.23 M	-6.01 M
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>14.90 M</b>	<b>17.61 M</b>	<b>16.86 M</b>	<b>15.74 M</b>	<b>20.50 M</b>	<b>16.0 M</b>	<b>12.80 M</b>	<b>12.80 M</b>	<b>14.08 M</b>	<b>15.49 M</b>
<i>Comparison to Prior Year</i>		118%	96%	93%	130%	78%	80%	100%	110%	110%
<b>Expenditures</b>	16.28 M	17.35 M	15.69 M	16.40 M	17.74 M	<b>18.37 M</b>	<b>18.85 M</b>	<b>19.36 M</b>	<b>19.86 M</b>	<b>20.39 M</b>
<i>Personnel</i>	9.32 M	9.95 M	11.22 M	11.11 M	12.21 M	11.52 M	11.87 M	12.22 M	12.59 M	12.97 M
<i>Non-Personnel</i>	6.96 M	7.38 M	4.38 M	4.78 M	5.51 M	6.80 M	6.94 M	7.07 M	7.22 M	7.36 M
<i>Transfers</i>		.03 M	.10 M	.51 M	.03 M	.05 M	.05 M	.06 M	.06 M	.06 M
<b>Annual Surplus/Shortfall</b>	-1.38 M	.25 M	1.16 M	-.66 M	2.76 M	-2.37 M	-6.05 M	-6.56 M	-5.78 M	-4.90 M
<b>Ending Balance</b>	11.23 M	11.49 M	12.65 M	11.99 M	14.75 M	12.38 M	6.33 M	-.23 M	-6.01 M	-10.91 M

#### Notes & Assumptions:

1. FY21 revenue projection equals approximately 95% of budgeted.
2. Revenue projections for FY22-FY25 based on performance during FY09-FY12 downturn period.
3. Personnel expenditures are projected based on FY21 budgeted payroll expenditures with 3% annual increase.
4. Non-personnel expenditure based on FY21 budgeted expenditures with 2% annual increase.

### Permit Service Center Fund Projection: Optimistic Scenario

	FY 2016 Actuals	FY 2017 Actuals	FY 2018 Actuals	FY 2019 Actuals	FY 2020 Actuals	FY2021 Projected	FY 2022 Projected	FY 2023 Projected	FY 2024 Projected	FY 2025 Projected
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	12.62 M	11.23 M	11.49 M	12.65 M	11.99 M	14.75 M	14.38 M	11.73 M	9.38 M	7.80 M
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>14.90 M</b>	<b>17.61 M</b>	<b>16.86 M</b>	<b>15.74 M</b>	<b>20.50 M</b>	<b>18.0 M</b>	<b>16.20 M</b>	<b>17.01 M</b>	<b>18.29 M</b>	<b>19.66 M</b>
<i>Comparison to Prior Year</i>		118%	96%	93%	130%	88%	90%	105%	108%	108%
<b>Expenditures</b>	16.28 M	17.35 M	15.69 M	16.40 M	17.74 M	<b>18.37 M</b>	<b>18.85 M</b>	<b>19.36 M</b>	<b>19.86 M</b>	<b>20.39 M</b>
<i>Personnel</i>	9.32 M	9.95 M	11.22 M	11.11 M	12.21 M	11.52 M	11.87 M	12.22 M	12.59 M	12.97 M
<i>Non-Personnel</i>	6.96 M	7.38 M	4.38 M	4.78 M	5.51 M	6.80 M	6.94 M	7.07 M	7.22 M	7.36 M
<i>Transfers</i>		.03 M	.10 M	.51 M	.03 M	.05 M	.05 M	.06 M	.06 M	.06 M
<b>Annual Surplus/Shortfall</b>	-1.38 M	.25 M	1.16 M	-.66 M	2.76 M	-.37 M	-2.65 M	-2.35 M	-1.58 M	-.73 M
<b>Ending Balance</b>	11.23 M	11.49 M	12.65 M	11.99 M	14.75 M	14.38 M	11.73 M	9.38 M	7.80 M	7.07 M

#### Notes & Assumptions:

1. FY21 revenue projection is based on actuals through 1.26.21.
2. Revenue projections for FY23-FY25 based on strong economic recovery period during FY13-FY15.
3. Personnel expenditures are projected based on FY21 budgeted payroll expenditures with 3% annual increase.
4. Non-personnel expenditure based on FY21 budgeted expenditures with 2% annual increase.



# Permit Service Center Fund Update & Projection

Jordan Klein & Pankti Clerk

Planning & Development Department

February 25, 2021

# Permit Service Center (PSC) Fund Overview

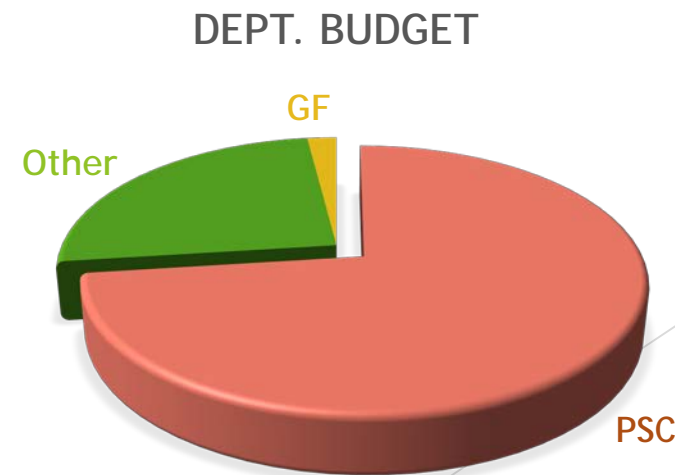
- ▶ Enterprise Fund created in 1997
- ▶ Planning Department's Building & Safety Division
- ▶ State laws authorize permit fees for services
- ▶ Spending is restricted to a limited set of expenditures related to construction permits and land use entitlements

# PSC Services

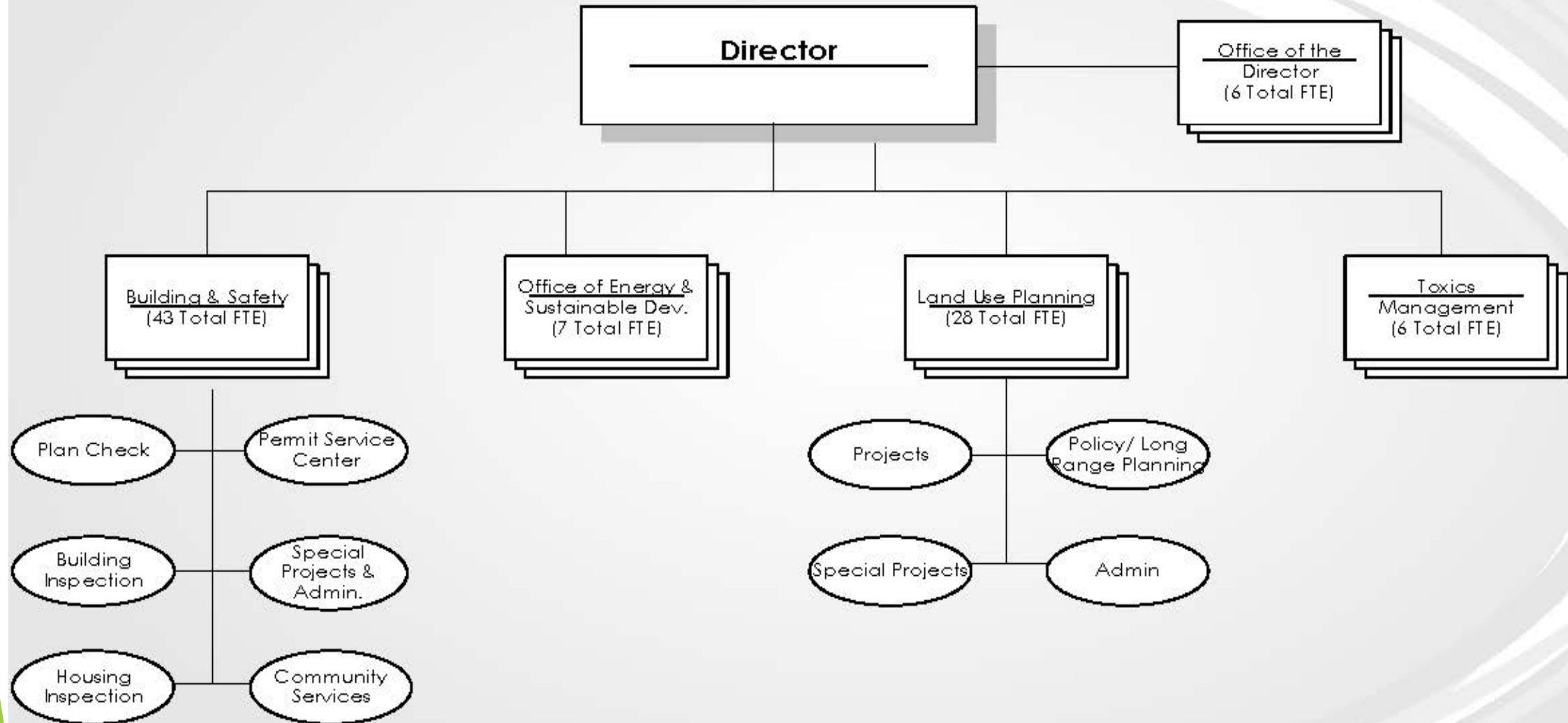
- ▶ One-stop-shop for issuing:
  - Building permits
  - Zoning permits
  - Fire permits
  - Public works permits and more
- ▶ Multi disciplinary team to deliver services
- ▶ Ensure safe development and construction

# PSC Fund Overview

- ▶ Approx. 70-75% of the Planning Department budget
- ▶ Provides funding for approx. 90% of FTEs in the Dept.; 43 FTEs B&S Div.
- ▶ Approx. 9 FTEs non-Planning Dept.  
(PW:5; Fire:3; HR:1)
- ▶ FY20 Revenue: \$20.5M
- ▶ FY20 Expenses: \$17.8M



**Planning and Development Department**  
ALL DIVISIONS  
(90 Total Career FTE)



# Fund Balance

- ▶ Much of our fund balance consists of fees for outstanding services to be provided
- ▶ Healthy reserve is essential to department operations
- ▶ Zucker Report (2017) recommended PSC Fund maintain reserves equal to 1 year of expenses
- ▶ FY20 Expenditures: \$17.8M
- ▶ FY08-FY20 (13yr Average) Expenditures: \$12M
- ▶ FY20 Ending Fund Balance: \$14.8M
- ▶ Goal: \$15M

# Methodology & Forecasting

- ▶ Analyzing past & present performance, performance during the 2009-11 downturn
- ▶ Analyzing how COVID-19 is impacting us / the development economy now
  - ❖ Significant drop in Land Use Permit applications
- ▶ Communicating w/ clients and partners
- ▶ Communicating w/ other municipalities



# Regional Projections (FY22)

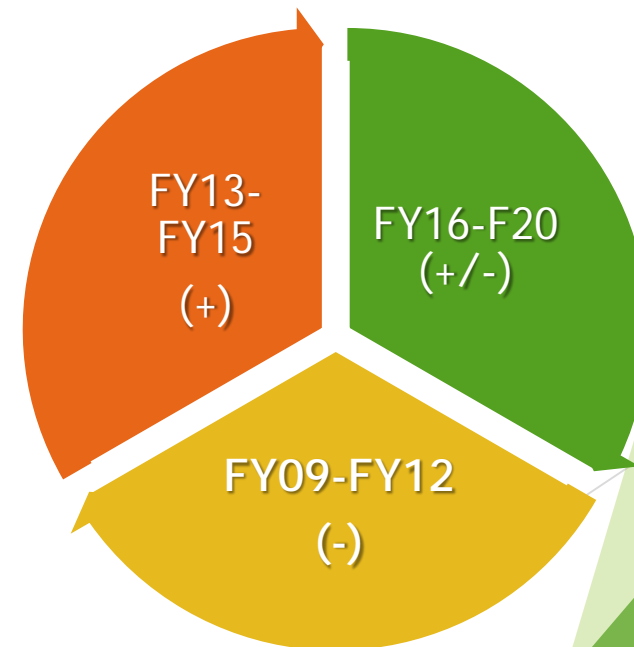
- ✓Oakland/Alameda area
- ✓Walnut Creek
- San Jose
- Santa Clara
- Palo Alto
- ✓Hayward





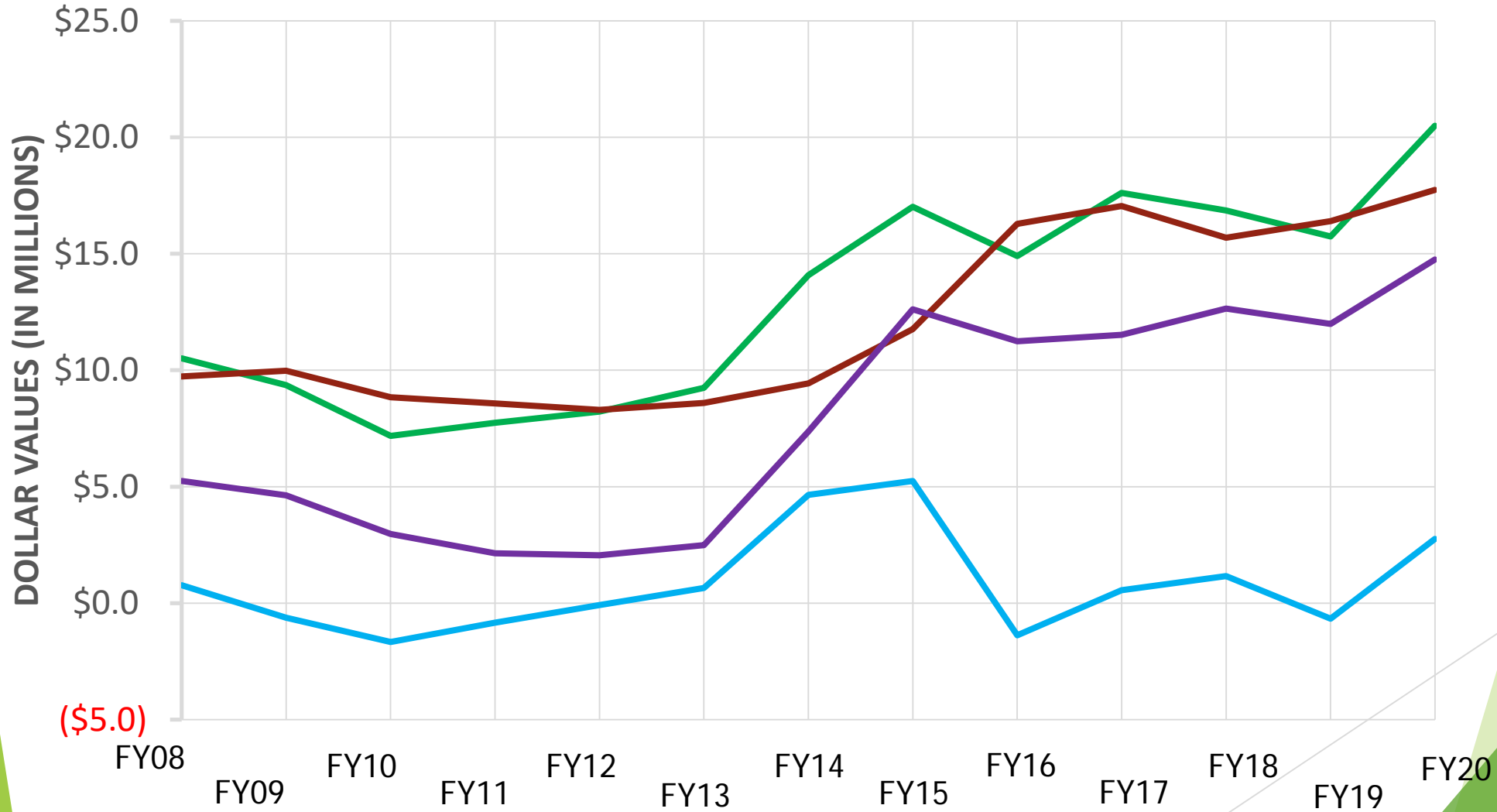
# PSC Fund Historical Performance

- ▶ Development and Construction Industry: historically experiences 7- to 10-year activity cycles
- ▶ FY09-FY12: Last economic downturn (Annually: Shortfalls)
- ▶ FY13-FY15: Upswing (Annually: Surplus)
- ▶ FY16-FY20: Mixed recovery (Annually: Mix of surplus & shortfalls)



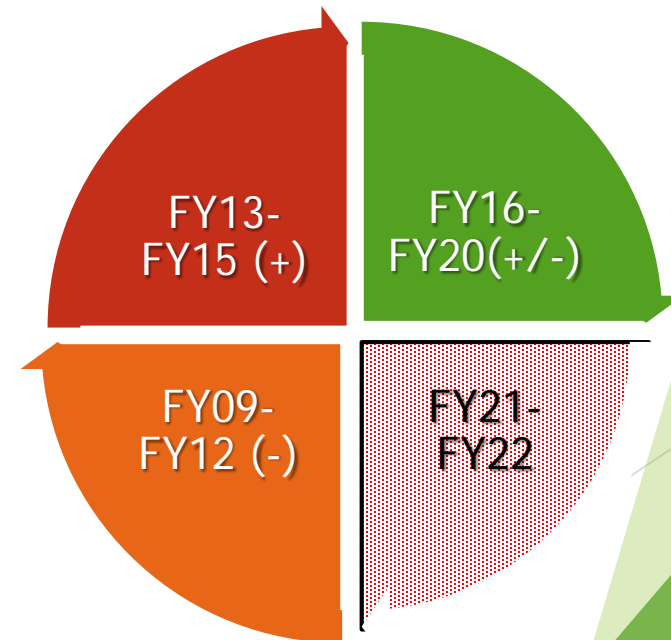
## PSC FUND (FY08-FY20)

Revenue Expenses Annual (+/-) Fund Balance



# PSC Fund Historical Performance

- ▶ Development and Construction Industry: historically experiences 7-10 yr. activity cycles
- ▶ FY09-FY12: Last economic downturn (Annual: Shortfalls)
- ▶ FY13-FY15: Upswing (Annual: Surplus)
- ▶ FY16-FY20: Soft revenues (Annual: Mixed)
- ▶ FY21-FY22: Now?



# PSC Fund, Five-Year Projections

- ▶ Three Scenarios for What the Future Holds

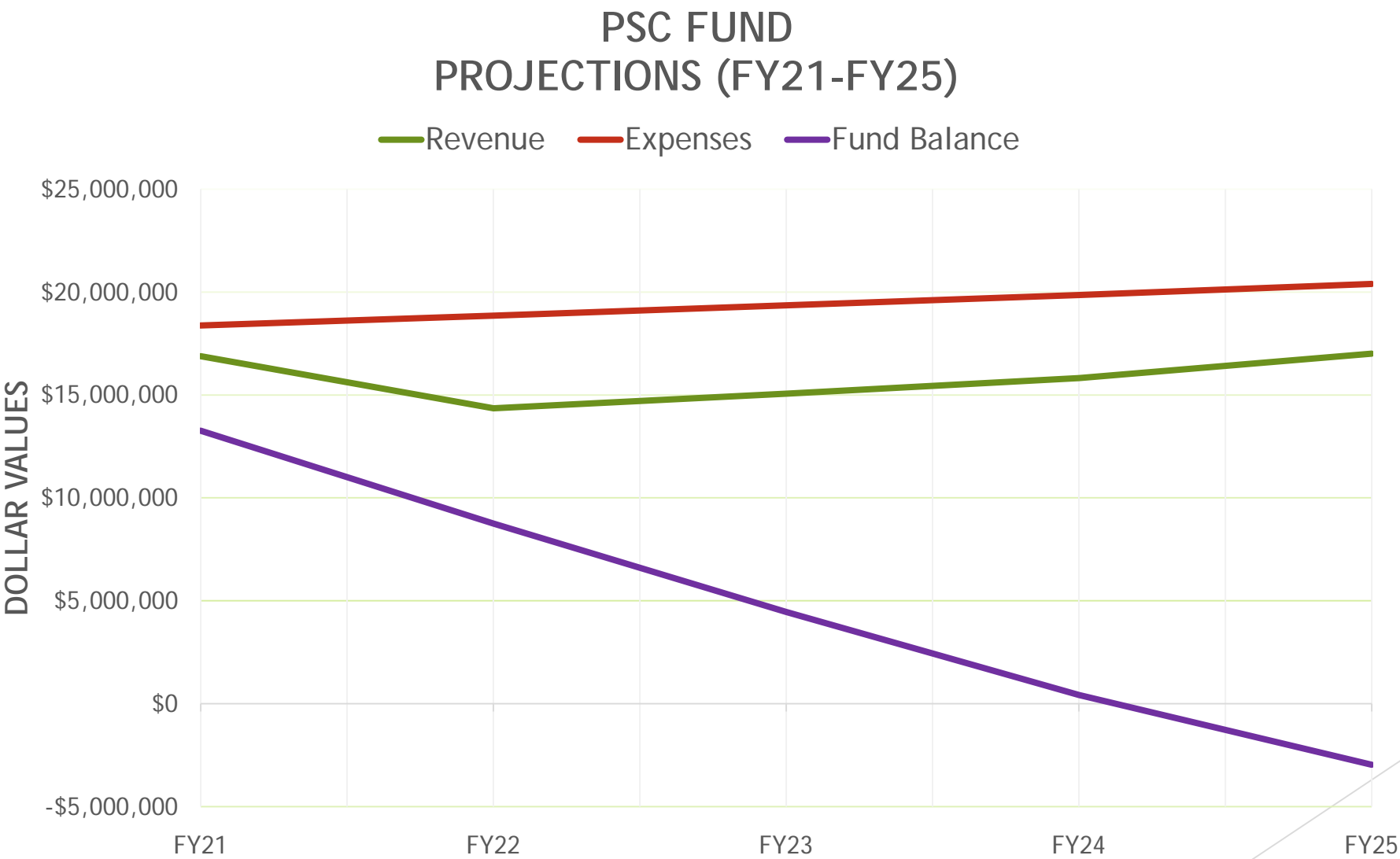
- ▶ Mid-Range

- ▶ Conservative

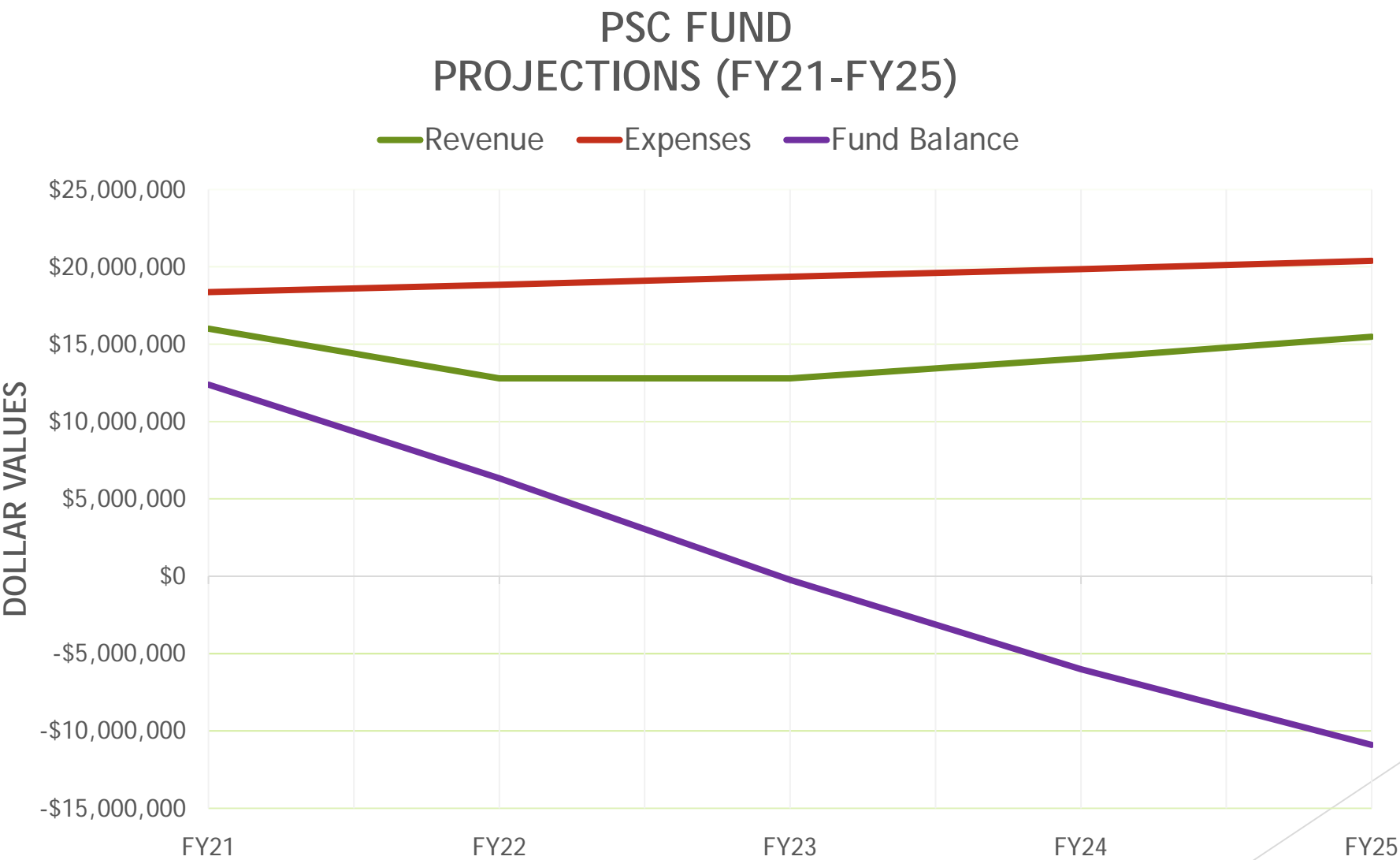
- ▶ Optimistic



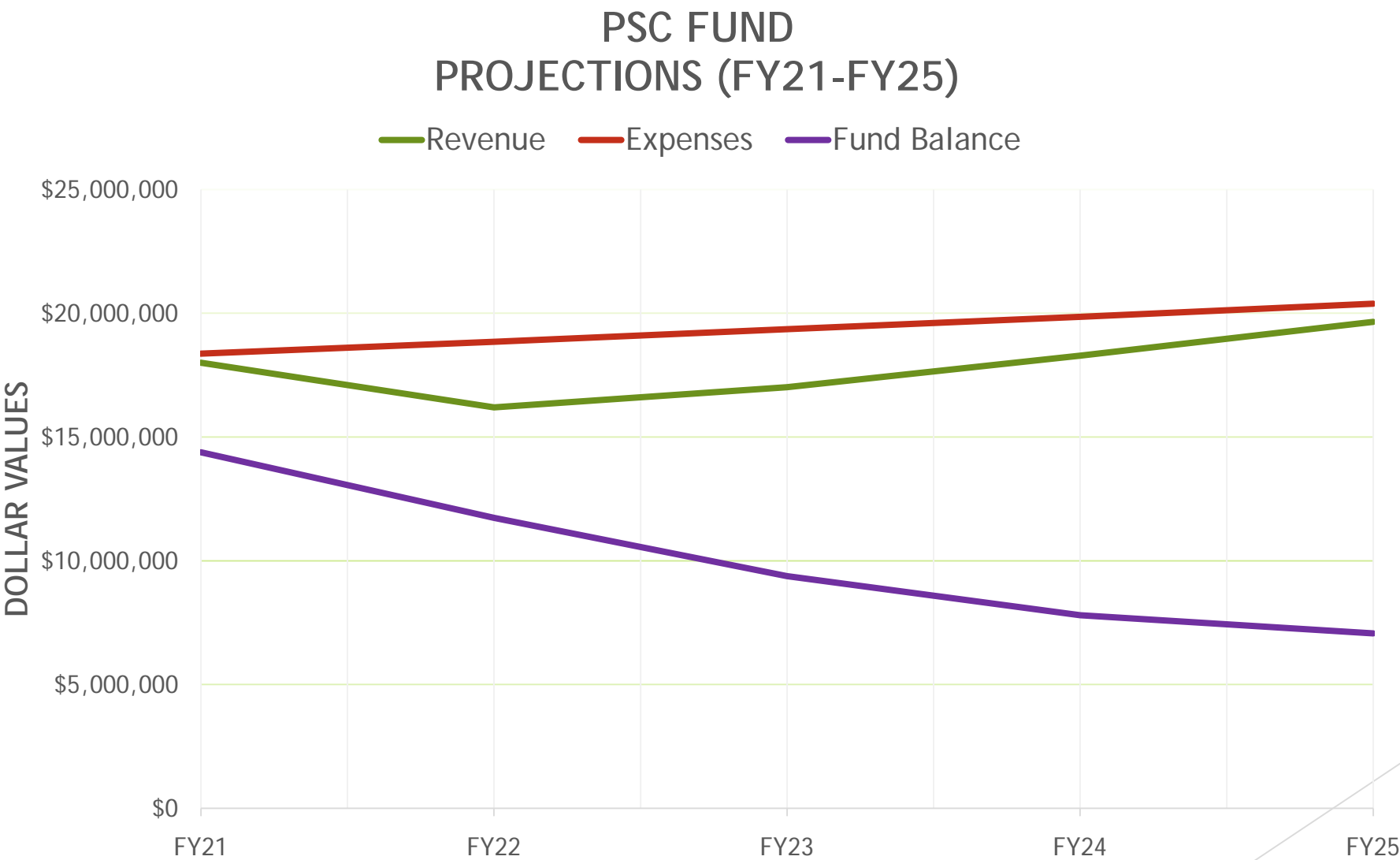
# Projections: Scenario 1 (Mid-Range)



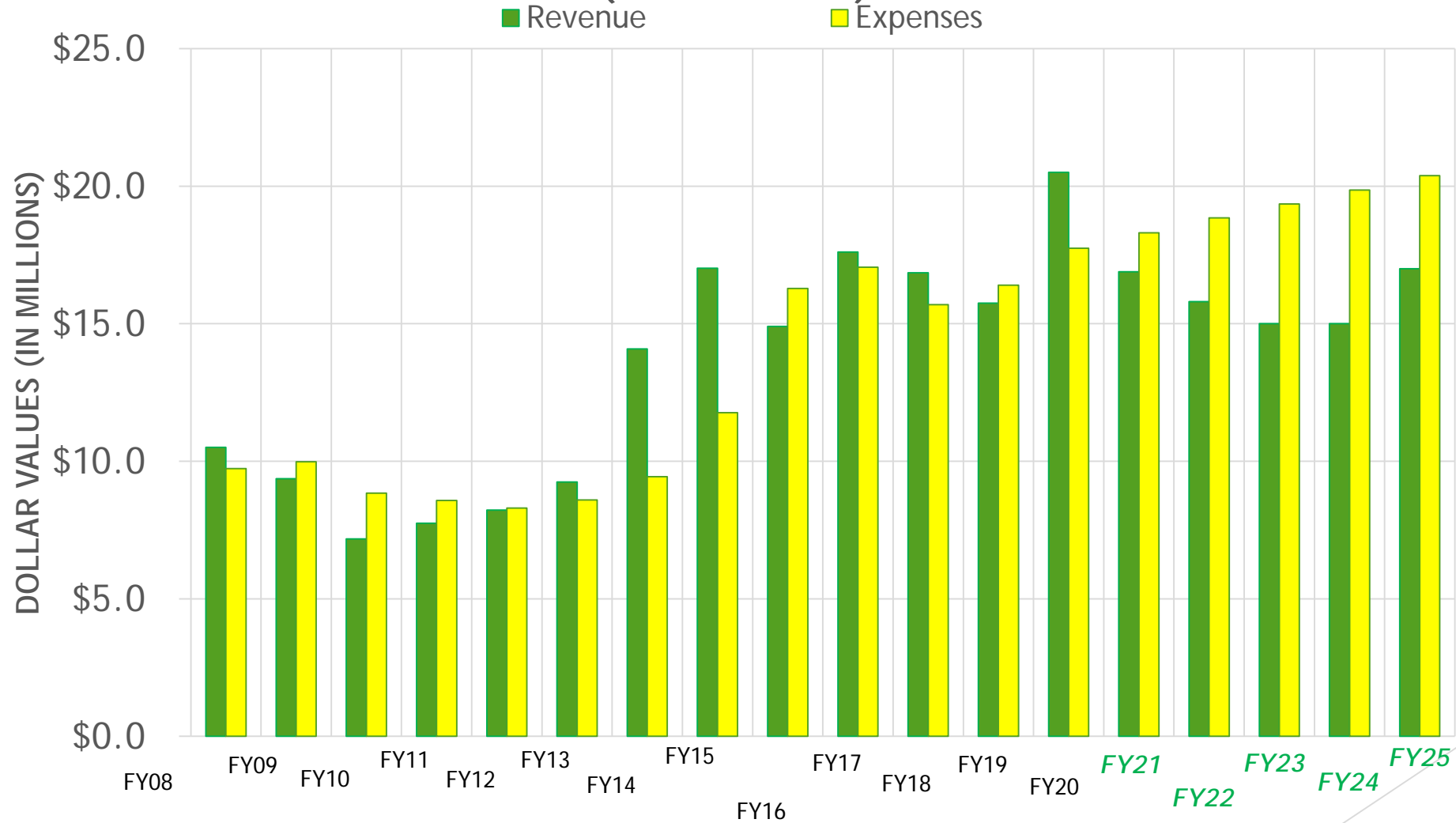
# Projections: Scenario 2 (Conservative)



# Projections: Scenario 3 (Optimistic)

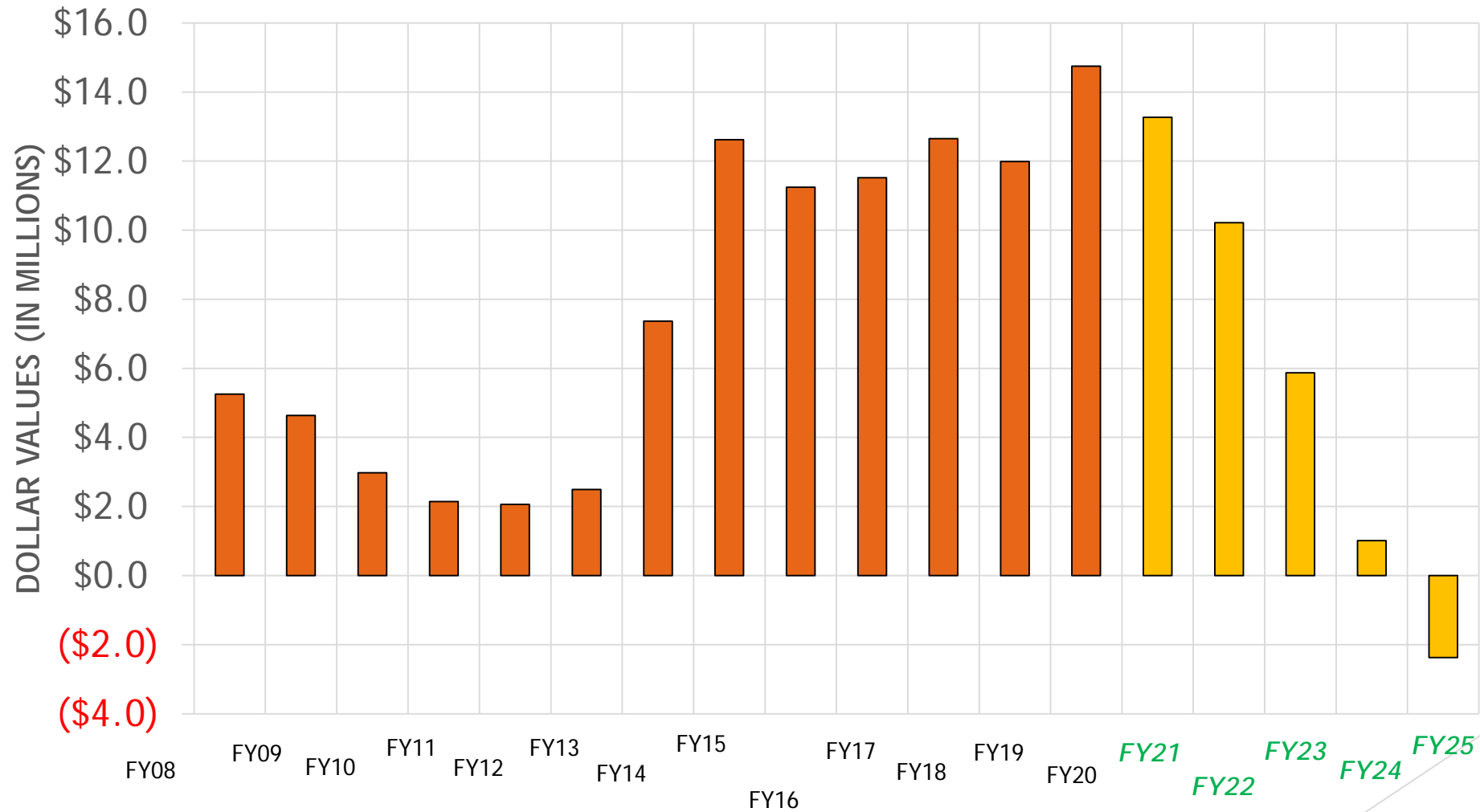


# PSC FUND (REVENUE & EXPENSE) W/MID RANGE PROJECTIONS (FY08-FY25)





# PSC FUND (FUND BALANCE): W/MID RANGE PROJECTIONS (FY08-FY25)



# Summary of Scenarios

- ▶ Reserves help balance the fund in difficult economic times
- ▶ Reserves would hit \$0 balance within the next 5 years  
(in 2 of the 3 scenarios)
- ▶ Revenues dependent on rate of incoming sizeable projects

# Balancing Strategy

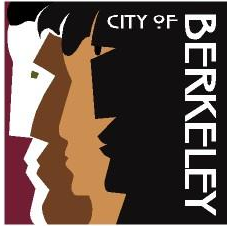
- ▶ Reduce expenditures to minimize use of reserves
- ▶ Reduce contract services for permit review
- ▶ Defer Digital Permitting Software (~\$4M)
- ▶ Avoid new capital expenditures
- ▶ Ensure fee waivers and long-term deferrals are back-filled by other sources
- ▶ Leverage natural attrition as application volume declines to temporarily hold positions vacant
- ▶ Conduct fee analysis & update fee schedule

# Next Steps

- ▶ Regularly update projections with newer information regarding pipeline projects and status of pandemic, to inform planned expenditures
- ▶ FY22 Budget Presentation in April

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect. The shapes are layered, with some appearing more prominent than others, and they extend towards the corners of the frame.

Q & A



Rashi Kesarwani  
Councilmember District 1

## **REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL for Supplemental Packet 1**

**Meeting Date:** March 9, 2021

**Item Number:** 19

**Item Description:** Support Vision 2025 for Sustainable Food Policies

**Submitted by:** Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani

The revised material simply modifies the Health, Life Enrichment, Equity & Community policy committee recommendation to be more consistent with the amended resolution. It clarifies that Vision 2025 shall be adopted by the Berkeley City Council, and that the City will join other municipalities in signing the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP).



Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember  
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR

March 9, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Cheryl Davila (Author)

Subject: Support Vision 2025 for Sustainable for Sustainable Food Policies

RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt a Resolution Supporting Vision 2025 for Sustainable Food Policies
2. Join [San Francisco](#), [Chicago](#) and [Austin](#) in signing the [Milan Urban Food Policy Pact \(MUFPP\)](#) which includes forming an advisory body on sustainable food policies.
3. Support adoption of a Climate-Friendly Food Purchasing Policy as described by [Friends of the Earth](#) to replace 50% of the City's annual animal-based food procurement with plant-based food.
4. Short Term Referral to the City Manager to:
  - a. Track the amount of animal-based food replaced with plant-based food
  - b. Use Friends of the Earth's Municipal Guide to Climate-Friendly Food Purchasing for the procurement of plant-based food.

POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

On February 8, 2021, the Health, Life Enrichment, Equity and Community Committee moved the item to Council with a qualified positive recommendation to take the following action:

1. ~~Express support for the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) Adopt Vision 2025 for establishing sustainable food systems and sign the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP)~~
2. Refer aspects of the original item to the Community Health Commission (or future commission addressing public health) to take the following actions: a) Consult with appropriate City staff to evaluate the feasibility of altering food sources within the City's existing food service contracts - with a specific focus on the feasibility of replacing meat and dairy-based offerings with plant-based options - given contractor procurement practices and any federal or state nutrition requirements for seniors and other affected populations; and (b) Solicit input from potentially affected communities, particularly seniors, for their feedback on shifting to more plant-based foods through a short survey or other means; and
3. Adopt the resolution as amended. Vote: All Ayes.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

In June, 2018 the City of Berkeley unanimously passed a Climate Emergency Declaration, then in September, 2018 passed the Resolution Establishing Green Monday. Berkeley should understand the impact of our food sector on the environment, sustainability of natural resources,

health, and social equity. By adopting Vision 2025 for Sustainable Food Policies, Berkeley will sign MUFPP and join C40 Cities in developing sustainable food systems through forming an advisory body with local activists, organizations, and business owners. Berkeley would join the C40 North America cities, Austin, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Montreal, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Portland, San Francisco, Toronto, Vancouver, and Washington DC and more cities may follow suit. Adopting the Vision 2025, the City of Berkeley would be committed to making food purchasing decisions that protect animal welfare, environmental sustainability, and provide healthy food options. By adopting the proposed Vision, Berkeley would also pass Climate-Friendly Food Purchasing Policy and commit to replacing 50% of annual animal-based food purchasing with plant-based food.

#### OUTCOMES AND EVALUATIONS:

Berkeley City Council would receive policy recommendations from the established advisory body for increasing climate-friendly, healthy and sustainable plant-based food options. The City Council should evaluate and update contracts with food vendors.

#### BACKGROUND

According to MUFPP, our food choices are directly linked to our environmental, health and social wellbeing. What we put on our plates every day either contributes to, or harms our physical wellbeing, our local economy, and our global resources. Approximately, 80% of the U.S. population lives in urban areas.<sup>1</sup> This means that urban cities are responsible for a significant portion of the national food consumption, and with it, the environmental and social impacts of those food choices. As a result, the C40 cities like San Francisco, Chicago and Austin have signed MUFPP agreements in order to develop environment-friendly, healthy and socially equitable food policies.<sup>2</sup> The City of Berkeley has wisely adopted Green Monday and the Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP). But there is certainly a need to develop broader policies for significant improvement. Vision 2025 is designed to achieve this significant change over the next five years without causing a financial burden to the City of Berkeley. In fact, could result in overall cost savings.

By adopting Vision 2025, the City would be agreeing to sign MUFPP developed with the support of international organizations including the United Nations Farm and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO). The MUFPP suggests forming an advisory committee that would include local activists, organizations, business owners and other stakeholders to propose sustainable food policies. The second action item under the resolution is to pass a Climate-Friendly Food Purchasing policy that requires the City to replace 50% of animal-based food procurement with plant-based food.

Globally, several agencies are reporting the devastating impacts of a meat- and dairy-based diet for our physical and environmental health. The UN FAO reports that animal agriculture is responsible for emitting 18% of our planet's total greenhouse gas (GHG).<sup>3</sup> These numbers are larger than the total GHG emissions from fossil fuels burned by the global transportation sector. The agriculture sector is expected to contribute 70% of total allowable GHG emissions by 2050,



risking the Paris Agreement.<sup>6</sup> Livestock and poultry account for more than 60% of the global agricultural GHG emissions and, therefore, addressing the emissions from animal agriculture is crucial in order to meet the Paris Agreement.<sup>3,6</sup> According to the consumption-based GHG inventory described in Berkeley's Climate Action Plan, the food sector contributes more than 7 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> Eq. per household.<sup>5</sup> Most of these emissions are from animal products like meat and dairy.<sup>5</sup> The GHG emissions from meat consumption alone is more than the combined natural gas emissions in the City of Berkeley.

The negative impact of producing meat and dairy goes beyond global warming. In a drought-affected state, the average Californian consumes 1,500 gallons of water, and 50% of it is associated with meat and dairy consumption.<sup>7</sup> According to UN FAO, we have enough cropland to feed 9 billion people by 2050 if 40% of all crops produced today for livestock is directly used for human consumption.<sup>8</sup> Globally, animal agriculture is the leading cause of tropical deforestation and it has massive impacts on climate change and biodiversity.<sup>9,10</sup>

The destruction of forests and biodiversity forces wildlife to live closer to human populations, risking the spread of infectious diseases like Ebola and COVID-19.<sup>11</sup> Additionally, the production of meat and dairy puts us in close contact with domesticated animals resulting in the spillover of zoonotic pathogens like the influenza virus. The consumption of meat and dairy is associated with an increased risk of chronic illnesses like diabetes, heart disease, and cancer.<sup>12,13</sup> This type of diet significantly increases our healthcare costs, disproportionately jeopardizing the well-being of low-income families. The growing livestock biomass within confined spaces demands the increased use of antibiotics. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the excessive use of antibiotics serves as a breeding ground for antibiotic-resistant bacteria like Salmonella<sup>14</sup>. As a result, we are facing an uphill battle of antibiotic resistance. Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Antibiotic Awareness Week in November.

According to multiple reports, the single solution to achieve environmental sustainability within the food sector is by reducing the overall number of livestock and increasing our plant-based food options. The University of Oxford's most comprehensive meta-analysis reports that 83% of world farmland is used for livestock production to provide only 18% and 37% of our calories and protein, respectively.<sup>4</sup> The replacement of animal products with plant based food can free-up farmland that could remove additional 8.1 billion metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> Eq. every year for next 100 years.<sup>4</sup> As a result, the 50% replacement of animal products with plant-based food can reduce 20% of total anthropogenic GHG emissions across all sectors.<sup>4</sup> According to World Resource Institute, the almost 50% reduction of animal products in the average U.S. diet can reduce more than 40% of the country's agriculture GHG emission and land use.<sup>6</sup>

The City of Berkeley purchases almost \$5 million worth of food for places like senior centers, the Police Department's jail facility, public meetings, and events. As a result, Berkeley's purchasing power has a huge role to play in increasing plant-based food options. The municipal guide from Friends of the Earth (FOE) on Climate-Friendly Food Purchasing is an effective tool for increasing plant-based food options. It provides a stepwise process for municipalities to meet their target of increasing plant-based food options. Berkeley's potential to provide sustainable

food is beyond the city's purchasing power. It includes, but is not limited to City parks, public schools, restaurants, and other food businesses.

Berkeley would join a good company by adopting Vision 2025. Recently, U.S. legislators have identified the importance of increasing plant-based food and milk options across various cities, states, as well as in Congress. Senator Cory Booker has introduced the Farm System Reform Act to completely phase out of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO). Senator Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders are co-sponsoring the bill, and Representative Ro Khanna has introduced a companion bill in the House. California Assembly Bill 479 encourages public schools to provide healthy, climate-friendly (plant-based) food and milk options. This active bill has been well-received by both the State Assembly and Senate. Los Angeles and other C40 Cities have committed to establish a planetary diet of consuming only 300 grams of meat per person in a week. New York City Council recently declared a plan to phase out processed meat and to cut down its beef purchasing by 50% in city facilities. The decision was part of the City's Green New Deal for addressing global warming. More locally, Oakland Unified School District decreased carbon footprint by 14%, water consumption by 6% and saved \$42,000 through increasing fruits, vegetables and legumes purchase and reducing meat and dairy consumption by 30%.<sup>15</sup> This low-carbon commitment by one of California's largest school districts has shown the potential for protecting the environment and natural resources through healthy and cost-effective plant-based food options.

#### REVIEW EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND LAWS

Vision 2025 is aligned well with Berkeley's Green Monday initiative and GFPP. Green Monday recommends serving plant-based food once a week along with raising awareness about the positive impacts of plant-based food choices on the environment. Various reports suggest that animal products alone can jeopardize the Paris Agreement to keep the global surface temperature below 2C and could threaten scarce natural resources by 2050. Significant changes in our food choices need to happen for the wellbeing of our environment and global sustainability. It demands us to extend our efforts in increasing plant-based options through specific policies in the next 5 years.

GFPP is a certification-based program that also promotes antibiotic-free and grass-fed beef. The increasing demand for animal products requires that livestock are kept in confined spaces making them vulnerable to diseases. Therefore, it is not feasible to harvest animal products at a global scale without using antibiotics in livestock. The excessive use of antibiotics has already resulted in many antibiotic-resistant bacteria, pushing countries like India and China to use last-resort antibiotic drugs, like colistin.<sup>16</sup> It will also be socially inequitable if we were to use excessive resources, like pastureland, to harvest grass-fed and antibiotic-free animal products only for wealthy families and developed nations. Additionally, the grass-fed cows contribute more methane than the grain-fed cows in CAFO.<sup>17</sup> As a result, these existing initiatives and programs require Berkeley to extend plant-based options through other programs and policies.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no imposed cost but could result in savings associated with adopting this recommendation.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

This item is in alignment with Berkeley's commitment to environmental sustainability and programs like Green Monday and GFPP. The adoption of Vision 2025 for Sustainable Food Policies will significantly reduce Berkeley's food sector associated GHG emissions, deforestation, fresh water and antibiotic consumption. It will also help Berkeley to transition towards healthy and globally sustainable food practices.

## CONTACT PERSONS

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## ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution

## REFERENCES

1. United States Census Bureau <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2016/cb16-210.html>
2. Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Signatories <http://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/signatory-cities/>
3. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/197623/icode/>
4. Oxford Meta-Analysis on Food's Environmental Impacts <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/360/6392/987>
5. Berkeley Climate Action Plan Updates 2020 [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City\\_Council/2020/07\\_Jul/Documents/2020-07-21\\_Presentations\\_Item\\_5\\_\(6pm\)\\_Pres\\_CMO\\_pdf.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2020/07_Jul/Documents/2020-07-21_Presentations_Item_5_(6pm)_Pres_CMO_pdf.aspx)
6. World Resource Institute Report, 2019 <https://research.wri.org/wrr-food>
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9. NASA Earth Observatory [https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/features/Deforestation/deforestation\\_update3.php](https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/features/Deforestation/deforestation_update3.php)
10. UN FAO report, Cattle Ranching and Deforestation <http://www.fao.org/3/a-a0262e.pdf>
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13. Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicines <https://www.pcrm.org/good-nutrition/nutrition-information/health-concerns-about-dairy>
14. Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, University of Minnesota <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2016/12/fda-antibiotic-use-food-animals-continues-rise>

15. Good Food Purchasing Program <https://goodfoodcities.org/less-meat-better-food-happier-kids-oakland-unified-reinvents-its-school-lunch/>
16. The Statesman <https://www.thestatesman.com/supplements/8thday/heading-for-a-disaster-1502677575.html>
17. A Well-Fed World <https://awellfedworld.org/issues/climate-issues/grass-fed-beef/>

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA,  
ADOPTING VISION 2025 FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD POLICIES

WHEREAS, roughly 80% of the U.S. population live in urban areas, suggesting the important role of U.S. Cities for establishing a culture of sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has declared a Climate Emergency for protecting our environment, human population and biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley is putting best efforts to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in order to reverse global warming as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley's consumption-based GHG inventory shows significant emissions associated with the City's food system; and

WHEREAS, the World Resource Institute (WRI) reports that the agriculture sector will be responsible for 70% of the total allowable emissions by 2050, risking Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) reports that more than 60% of agriculture emissions come from the livestock sector, and it is estimated to be higher than fossil fuel emissions from the entire transportation sector; and

WHEREAS, the scientific analysis shows the urgency to reduce GHG emissions from animal agriculture in order to meet the Paris Agreement of keeping an average global surface temperature below 2C; and

WHEREAS, California is one of the most drought-affected states, and almost 50% of Californian's water footprint is associated with consumption of meat and dairy; and

WHEREAS, the cattle industry is the leading cause of deforestation in the Amazon rainforest that is home to 10% of the world's species and a major source of vital oxygen; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. food sector is globally interconnected because of the import-export trading and therefore, our food choice directly impacts the Amazon deforestation and biodiversity loss; and

WHEREAS, 83% of agriculture land is used for raising livestock and producing their feed, but meat and dairy only provide 18% of the world's calories; and

WHEREAS, the WRI estimates a 56% increase in crop calorie demand in order to feed 9 billion people by 2050, requiring an extra 593 million hectares of agriculture land, which is twice the size of India; and

WHEREAS, the world already produces enough food to feed 9 billion people if we use crop calories to directly feed the human population; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. pours significant agriculture resources to grows crops for feeding livestock and poultry while more than 800 million people are food insecure, and 45% of children die under 5 years of age due to malnutrition; and

WHEREAS, the WHO reports that 60% of all human disease originates in animals and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates 3 out of every 4 emerging infectious diseases come from animals; and

WHEREAS, the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) risk spillover of zoonotic pathogens by confining animals and bringing human beings into proximity with them; and

WHEREAS, the CAFO negatively impacts the health of surrounding communities through air and water pollution, and the majority of these homes belong to African Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicines (PCRM) reports that meat and dairy consumption is associated with the increased risk of chronic illness like cancer, diabetes and heart disease in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified processed meat like ham, bacon, hotdogs, sausage, and some deli meat as carcinogenic and red meat as a probable carcinogen; and

WHEREAS, studies show that over 90% of the people dying from COVID-19 have had pre-existing conditions, mostly from chronic diseases such as heart disease and type 2 diabetes; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted communities of color, with black Americans hospitalized at 4.5 times the rate of white Americans and Hispanic Americans hospitalized at 4 times the rate of white Americans; and

WHEREAS, communities of color experience higher rates of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and other chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, the socio-economic and cultural factors that cause poor health conditions in many communities of color can be found in all of our nation's struggling communities; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of the slaughterhouse workers are undocumented and forced to meet ever-growing line speed under the threat of deportation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. workers in meat plants are three times more likely to suffer a serious injury with an average of two amputations per week; and

WHEREAS, the slaughterhouse workers are exposed to extremely stressful environments including physical, psychological and sexual abuse and many of them develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); and

WHEREAS, overfishing is destroying marine biodiversity, and aquaculture imposes a threat to our environment; and

WHEREAS, Project Drawdown reports shifting our diet towards plant-based food as one of the most significant solutions to climate change; and

WHEREAS, WRI recommends shifting our diet to plant-based in order to reduce GHG emissions, agriculture land-use and protect public health; and

WHEREAS, WRI reports that replacing almost 50% of animal-based food in the average U.S. diet with plant-based options could reduce more than 40% of agriculture land and GHG emissions; and

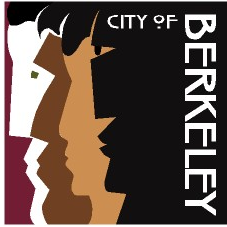
WHEREAS, Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) summit delivered a letter signed by 65 scientists calling world mayors to reduce the consumption of animal-based food; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles and 13 other C40 Cities have signed a declaration to reduce procurement of meat products to 300 grams (two burger patties) per person per week by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has already started establishing sustainable food systems through passing Green Monday and Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) and recognizes the need of expanding these efforts; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Berkeley hereby adopts Vision 2025 for establishing sustainable food systems, wherein the City of Berkeley joins San Francisco, Chicago and Austin in signing the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) along with referring to the Community Health Commission and Environmental Commission or relevant future commissions to explore the implementation of the City adopted sustainable food programs, identify gaps and propose new policies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Berkeley supports adoption of a Climate-Friendly Food Purchasing Policy as described by Friends of the Earth for working towards replacing 50% of the City's annual animal-based food procurement with plant-based food.



Kate Harrison  
Councilmember District 4

## **REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL for Supplemental Packet 1**

**Meeting Date:** March 9, 2021

**Item Number:** 21

**Item Description:** Budget Referral: Allocate Transportation Network Companies User's Tax Proceeds and other General Fund Revenues to Support Priority Protected Bicycle Boulevards and the Street Repair Program

**Submitted by:** Councilmember Harrison

The item has been amended to:

- Clarify that bicycle funding will support Tier 1 protected bicycle lanes and crossings, including but not limited to quick-build projects;
- Include funding for quick-build public transit projects under the Street Repair Program that encourage transit use and either directly or indirectly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.





Kate Harrison  
Councilmember District 4

CONSENT CALENDAR  
March 9, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Harrison, Mayor Arreguín, Councilmembers Robinson and Taplin

Subject: Budget Referral: Allocate Transportation Network Companies User's Tax Proceeds and other General Fund Revenues to Support Priority Tier 1 Protected Bicycle Boulevards Lanes, Crossings, Demonstration Paving Projects, and/or Quick-build Public Transit Projects Under the Street Repair Program

RECOMMENDATION

1. Refer to the June, 2021 budget process:
  - a. The first \$500,000 in expected Transportation Network Companies (TNC) User's Tax General Fund revenue toward the construction and maintenance of 18.4 miles of Tier 1 priority-protected bicycle boulevards lanes and crossings, including but not limited to quick-build projects; and
  - b. \$410,000 in expected TNC Tax revenue as revenues become available and an additional \$90,000 from other General Fund revenue to supplement demonstration paving projects and/or quick-build public transit projects under the Street Repair Program that either directly or indirectly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Refer to the Transportation Commission to make recommendations to the Council as to allocation of TNC User's Tax in subsequent budget cycles, including consideration of bicycle and transit infrastructure.

BACKGROUND

A Metropolitan Transportation Commission report warns that Berkeley's overall paving condition is "At Risk," meaning on the cusp of falling into "Failing" category.<sup>1</sup> The current five-year paving plan is the result of historic deferred maintenance and an underfunded,

<sup>1</sup> "The Pothole Report: Bay Area Roads At Risk," Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission, September 2018,  
[https://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/Pothole%20Report%20III\\_September%202018.pdf](https://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/Pothole%20Report%20III_September%202018.pdf)

imperfect and complex balance between arterial, collector and residential streets distributed across Council districts.

Residential streets across the entire city are largely categorized as failing and bicycle, pedestrian and Vision Zero projects are severely underfunded. Meanwhile, neighboring cities in the Bay Area, such as Richmond, El Cerrito, San Francisco have “Excellent/Very Good” to “Fair/Good” streets conditions.

The Public Works Department has advised that ongoing funding under the rolling 5-Year Street Plan will not be enough to stabilize Berkeley’s streets. In fact, if street investment is not increased, Public Works warns that the City could face \$1 billion in future repair costs as the cost of deferred paving maintenance increases exponentially each year.

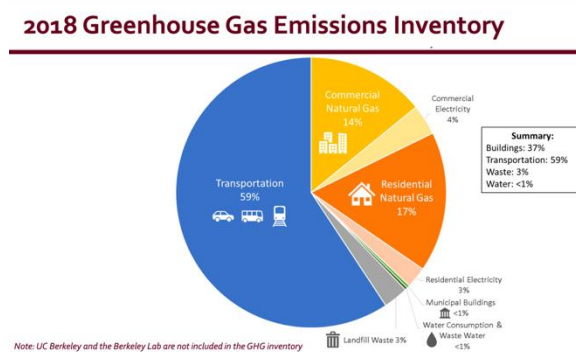


Since January 2020, the Facilities, Infrastructure, Transportation, Environment, & Sustainability Committee has been working with the Public Works Department and Public Works Commission to explore funding opportunities to enhance the Paving Condition Index (PCI) of Berkeley’s streets. In addition, it has been reviewing the City’s Paving Policy, which was last updated in 2009, and has been working to develop a Paving Master Plan.

To stabilize street conditions, the City will likely need to pursue a combination of investment strategies ranging from increasing General Fund allocations, initiating transfers from waste and sewer accounts, initiating impact fees in response to heavy

vehicle use and potentially issuing bonds. However, before going to the voters for new bonds, it is critical that the Council exhaust all equitable alternatives, including leveraging the proceeds of existing taxes and fees on private corporations who contribute disproportionately to the deterioration of Berkeley's streets and greenhouse gas emissions.

A recent University of Oxford study concluded that even partial substitution of vehicle travel with walking, cycling or e-biking are critical strategies for addressing climate change and lower mobility-related lifecycle CO<sub>2</sub>, and that cyclers have 84% lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions impact as compared to non-cyclers.<sup>2</sup> According to the study, urban residents substituting one vehicle trip per day with cycling reduced their carbon footprint by 0.5 tons per year, and "[i]f just 10% of the population were to change travel behaviour, the emissions savings would be around 4% of lifecycle CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from all car travel."



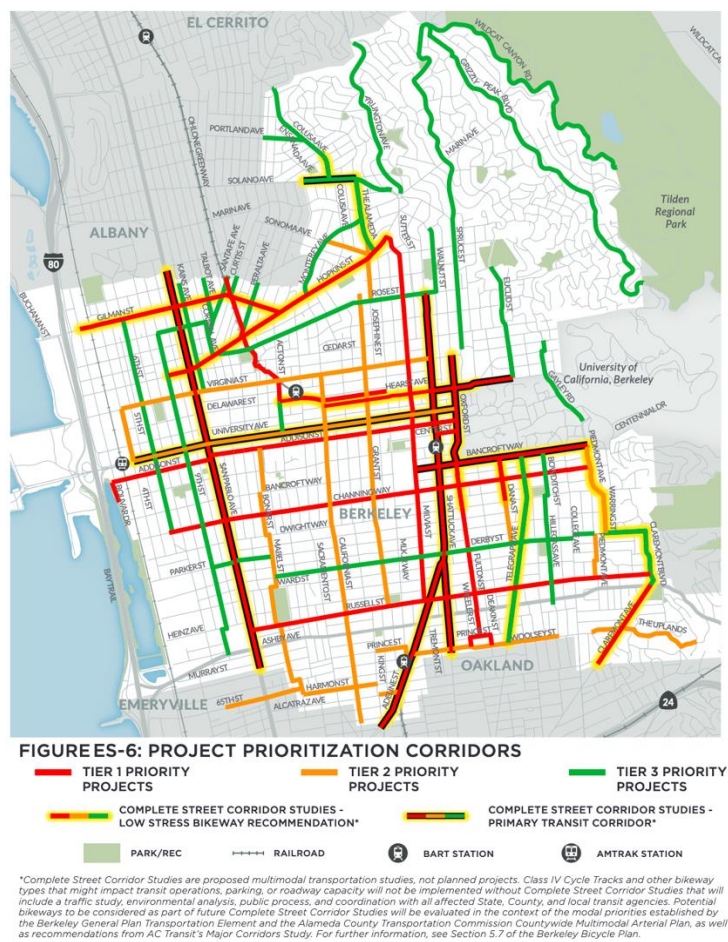
Berkeley voters overwhelmingly passed the TNC User's Tax (Measure GG) in 2020 with a 50-cent fee per rideshare trip specifically in order to generate "at least \$900,000 annually to support general municipal services like paving streets and improving pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure."<sup>3</sup> City staff estimated the tax will bring in approximately \$910,000 per year.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> "Study Shows Walking, Cycling, & e-Biking Make Significant Impact On Carbon Emissions," CleanTechnica, February 3, 2021, <https://cleantechnica.com/2021/02/03/study-shows-walking-cycling-e-biking-make-significant-impact-on-carbon-emissions/>.

<sup>3</sup> "Argument in Favor of Measure GG," Berkeley City Clerk, August 2020, <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Elections/GG%20-%20Primary%20in%20Favor%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

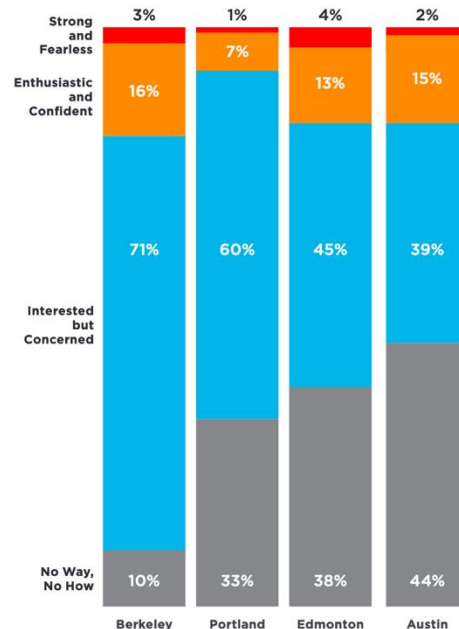
<sup>4</sup> "Placing a Tax Measure on the November 3, 2020 Ballot to Adopt a Tax on Transportation Network Companies," Berkeley City Clerk, July 21, 2020, [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City\\_Council/2020/07\\_Jul/Documents/2020-07-21\\_\(4pm\)\\_Special\\_Item\\_04\\_Placing\\_a\\_Tax\\_Measure\\_on\\_the\\_November\\_pdf.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2020/07_Jul/Documents/2020-07-21_(4pm)_Special_Item_04_Placing_a_Tax_Measure_on_the_November_pdf.aspx)

This budget referral proposes to allocate \$500,000 from TNC Tax proceeds directly to projects aimed at building out Tier 1 priority protected bicycle boulevardslanes and crossings, including but not limited to quick-build projects, which will enhance bicycle and micro mobility safety, offset vehicle miles travelled and paving impact, and lower greenhouse gas emissions.



Surveys conducted as part of the 2017 Berkeley Bicycle Plan provided key data about the eagerness of Berkeley residents to bicycle or use other forms of mobility, assuming the City provides safe infrastructure and routes. An astonishing 70% of Berkeley residents expressed interest in bicycling but were concerned about safety. The 2017 Plan concluded: "90 percent of Berkeley residents already bicycle or would consider bicycling if the right bikeway facility or roadway conditions were available. That is a

larger percentage than any other city that has conducted a similar study, including Portland, as shown at right.”<sup>5</sup>



Roger Geller's "Four Types of Transportation Cyclists" distribution for Berkeley, Portland, OR, Edmonton, AB, and Austin, TX.

Berkeley has struggled to address its transportation GHG emissions, but the data suggest that biking and mobility options could dramatically offset vehicle miles travelled. It is in the public interest to invest general fund revenue, namely TNC Tax revenue, in street enhancements that can encourage mode shifts from vehicles to carbon-free transportation.

If Council were to allocate the TNC Tax accordingly over next ten years, the period scientists consider critical to meet global emissions reductions targets, the City could fund 50% of the total "Class 4: Cycletrack" costs provided in the Bike Plan, and thus maximize the number of Berkeleyans who deem the streets safe enough to ride. Certainly, the expenditures proposed herein will not be enough to adequately fund

<sup>5</sup> "City of Berkeley Bicycle Plan," May 2, 2017, [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public\\_Works/Level\\_3\\_-\\_Transportation/Berkeley-Bicycle-Plan-2017-Executive%20Summary.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public_Works/Level_3_-_Transportation/Berkeley-Bicycle-Plan-2017-Executive%20Summary.pdf)



Berkeley's entire bike network, but they represent an important down payment.

**Table ES-3: Summary of Project Recommendations and Cost Estimates**

TYPE	MILEAGE	COST ESTIMATE
Class 1A: Paved Path	1.5 miles	\$5,285,700
Class 2A: Standard Bike Lane	0.1 miles	\$10,700
Class 2B: Upgraded Bike Lane	3.0 miles	\$541,500
Class 3C: Sharrows	13.9 miles	\$71,600
Class 3E: Bicycle Boulevard	12.4 miles	\$621,900
Class 4: Cycletrack	18.4 miles	\$9,903,300
Complete Street Corridor Interim Treatments	17.0 miles	\$1,181,400
Intersection and Traffic Calming Improvements	-	\$16,855,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>66.3 miles</b>	<b>\$34,471,100</b>

In addition, expanding reliability and access to public transit is also key to lowering GHG emissions and improving quality of life. Revenue generated from the TNC user tax should benefit bus transit performance and the transit rider experience since transit has been particularly impacted by the influx in TNC volume and use. To demonstrate the immediate benefits of these funds to transit, projects should be implemented with AC Transit's Quick-build framework structure as pilot and demonstration projects that could be implemented in under 18 months.

The City, AC Transit and local Business Improvement Districts are developing a list of City infrastructure improvements to support transit use with a focus on prioritizing transit, including dedicated bus lanes, bulb outs and paving treatments, and improving transit rider access and experience. For example, the City could add transit shelter canopies at the stops near senior centers and enhancing benefits for nearby businesses through building parklets and other customer amenities that serve both business patrons and bus riders, with the goal of encouraging patrons to visit businesses via public transit. In addition, funding could be dedicated to a quick-build transit lane along Durant Street, as this project has been evaluated by AC Transit and City of Berkeley Transportation staff. Since preliminary coordination has been done, using these funds to augment this project would realize an immediate impact.

Any allocation will be overseen by a joint working group of AC Transit and City of Berkeley staff to quickly realize the benefits to transit. Out-years projects will be determined by the City of Berkeley Transportation Commission, or another process deemed appropriate by the City Council.

It is therefore in the public interest to allocate the remaining \$410,000 TNC Tax revenues as they become available and approximately an additional \$90,000 in General Fund revenues per year to demonstration paving projects and/or quick-build public transit projects under the Street Repair Program that either directly or indirectly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. ~~which is aimed at generally improving the paving condition of all streets and may include alternative mobility, public transit and Vision Zero, and complete streets upgrades.~~

In subsequent budget cycles, this item refers to the Transportation Commission to weigh in with regard to the allocation of TNC User's Tax. The Transportation Commission is not currently authorized to meet remotely due to COVID-19 restrictions.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The item would have a net \$90,000 impact on the General Fund after considering the estimated \$910,000 revenue credited from the TNC Tax.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Reducing carbon emissions at an emergency and equitable pace is a necessary step to meet the goals of the Climate Action Plan and Climate Emergency Declaration.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Kate Harrison, Council District 4, 510-981-7140

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** General Secretary <gensec@tanc.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2021 9:12 PM  
**To:** All Council  
**Subject:** 62nd Tibetan Uprising Day events

**WARNING:** This email originated outside of City of Berkeley.

**DO NOT CLICK ON** links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Jesse Arreguin,

I hope this email finds you safe and healthy. My name is Tenzin Lunrig, and I am the General Secretary of Tibetan Association of Northern California (TANC). I am writing today on behalf of the San Francisco Team Tibet, which comprises of TANC, San Francisco Regional Tibetan Youth Congress (SFRTYC), Students for a Free Tibet -West (SFT-West), and Bay Area Friends of Tibet (BAFoT) - organizations that represent the sizable Tibetan population in the East Bay.

As a Tibetan-American, I would like to request your presence, as Chief Guest, in the commemoration of the 62nd Anniversary of Tibetan Uprising Day, in front of Berkeley City Hall on March 10, 2021, at 9am. On this day, our community would be honored if you would raise the Tibetan Flag in front of City Hall, as well as pass a resolution in support of the day, as your predecessors have over the past years.

Tibetans inside Tibet have continued to suffer under the Chinese regime for the last 60 years. Since 2009, over 165 Tibetans in Tibet and in exile have self-immolated - calling for freedom in Tibet and the return of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama to his rightful place. Our Spiritual leader has been a consistent, and passionate champion of peace. He is deeply admired by millions of people around the world, and in this great country. He has met with hundreds of elected leaders and won their hearts through his message of compassion. Leaders, such as **yourself**, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and Senator Dianne Feinstein have been true supporters of Tibet - with Speaker Pelosi even attending our Tibetan Uprising Day commemoration in front of the SF city hall on March 10, 2015.

In addition to your presence, I would like to kindly request you to pass a resolution in solidarity with Tibetan people as we commemorate the 62nd Anniversary of Tibetan Uprising Day. The cities of Berkeley and Richmond have been hoisting the Tibetan flag for the last two decades and the last three years respectively. I urge that you continue this meaningful tradition in 2021 as well.

Lastly, I understand that the pandemic has created many obstacles for gatherings and association. As such, if you are unable to make it to the commemoration in person, I would kindly request that you make a written, or video statement in support. Our community would greatly appreciate such a gesture.

I thank you for your time, and continued support and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Regards,

Tenzin Lunrig  
 Sincerely,  
 Tenzin Lunrig  
*General Secretary*  
*Tibetan Association of Northern California*  
5200 Dalai Lama Ave #200  
Richmond, CA 94804  
[www.tanc.org](http://www.tanc.org)



