



City of San Diego
MARK KERSEY
CITY COUNCILMAN, FIFTH DISTRICT

For Immediate Release

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Infrastructure Finance Measure Moves Forward with Key Vote

Rebuild San Diego measure would create City's first dedicated funding stream for infrastructure

SAN DIEGO (December 9, 2015) – The City of San Diego Infrastructure Committee today voted to move Councilman Mark Kersey's infrastructure financing proposal forward to full City Council where it will be considered for placement on the June 2016 ballot.

The proposal would amend the City's charter to secure a dedicated funding stream for infrastructure improvements. The Rebuild San Diego measure is expected to secure up to \$4-5 billion over the next 30 years.

"This measure will provide a sustainable, long-term commitment to financing infrastructure projects in the city," said Councilman Mark Kersey, chair of the Infrastructure Committee. "This charter amendment is essential if we are to operate an effective public works program that prioritizes long-term infrastructure planning and development, and is absolutely necessary to show voters we are serious about infrastructure investment."

The Rebuild San Diego measure commits three revenue streams to capital and maintenance costs associated with neighborhood infrastructure, including streets, sidewalks, storm drains, park and recreation facilities, libraries, and police and fire stations.

Future sales tax growth and savings from voter-approved pension reform will be dedicated to rebuilding San Diego for the next 30 years. Additionally, it will preserve half of all new major general fund growth over the next 5 years for infrastructure, formalizing a commitment made by Mayor Faulconer in the last two budgets and current five year budget outlook. Kersey's initiative would require a simple majority vote since it is not a tax increase.

"The Rebuild San Diego measure is strict enough to ensure a sustained, long-term investment in infrastructure while at the same time being flexible enough not to overburden other city services, and practical enough to be utilized by future policymakers in an effective and meaningful way," Kersey said.

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Over the past three years under Councilman Kersey's leadership, the Infrastructure Committee has approved several streamlining measures that reduce time and costs associated with infrastructure projects. These efficiencies are already saving taxpayers millions of dollars annually.

The committee has also passed a neighborhood prioritization policy which includes community feedback into the City's multi-year capital plan, the updated version of which was heard at today's Infrastructure Committee meeting.

Further analysis by the Independent Budget Analyst as well as input from the City Attorney's office and others will be included when presented to the full City Council, expected in January 2016.

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STATEMENT:

"I appreciate the feedback from my council colleagues on the Rebuild San Diego measure which will provide a sustainable, long-term commitment to financing infrastructure projects in the city. I look forward to a review by the Independent Budget Analyst and further input from the City Attorney. I am confident when this proposal comes before the full City Council in January they will agree this charter amendment is essential to operating an effective public works program that prioritizes infrastructure planning and development. And I believe it is absolutely necessary before we could ever consider asking taxpayers for more money."

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