



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MANHATTAN BEACH PROPERTY OWNERS APPROVE STORM DRAIN MEASURE

Enhanced funding will be locally controlled and dedicated to the repair, maintenance, and operation of local storm drains

Manhattan Beach, CA (January 23, 2024) – With the final votes tallied, the Manhattan Beach Storm Drain Measure garnered 52.65% of the vote in the recent election. The measure will increase the existing Storm Drain Fee, providing approximately \$2.1 million per year to be used for Manhattan Beach storm drains. The funds cannot be taken away by the State, the County, or diverted to other purposes.

As part of this election, 13,468 ballots were sent to every parcel owner in the City of Manhattan Beach. The City received 5,309 ballots from property owners; 2,795 (52.65%) voted to approve the measure, and 2,514 (47.35%) voted against the measure resulting in a 281 vote margin for approval.

“The support for the Storm Drain Measure reflects our community’s dedication to building a City that can withstand environmental challenges while preserving the beauty of our surroundings and the clean beaches and ocean we all hold dear,” said Mayor Joe Franklin. “My Council colleagues and I are very grateful for the support of Manhattan Beach residents, and we look forward to maintaining the infrastructure that will prepare us for future storms.”

The Storm Drain Fee was adopted in 1996 and provides funding to repair, maintain, and operate Manhattan Beach’s storm drain system. The Manhattan Beach storm drain system captures trash and pollution in stormwater before they reach the beaches and ocean. Property owners currently pay \$19.12 per year, which is collected with the property tax bill. This Measure, which required approval through a vote of property owners, updates this fee structure. The average homeowner will pay approximately \$129 per year. As noted in the ballot, the storm drain fee will be subject to annual inflation adjustments that cannot exceed the increase in the Consumer Price Index, upon City Council approval at a public hearing.

Funds from the Manhattan Beach Storm Drain Measure must only be used for repairs, operations, maintenance, and improvements to the City of Manhattan Beach’s aging storm drain system, including:

- Reconstructing or replacing aging storm drains that are identified by engineers as at risk for collapse or failure.
- Installing and maintaining storm drain devices that protect local beaches, waterways, and the ocean from trash and pollution.
- Inspecting and testing stormwater quality regularly to ensure clean water standards.

- Removing pollutants, toxic chemicals, and infectious bacteria from runoff.
- Reducing illegal discharges of pollution in local waterways.

Without this newly dedicated funding for Manhattan Beach's storm drain system, pipes and drains would have continued to age and potentially fail, causing sinkholes, flooding, and the potential for property damage. With this new dedicated source of funding, maintaining local storm drains will continue without competing with funding for general city services, such as 9-1-1 emergency response, fire protection, police patrols, pothole repair, and parks and recreation.

###