



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 15, 2020

**Menifee City Council Considers Fiscal Impacts of  
Voter-Approved Local Funding Repeal Initiative**

MENIFEE, CA – After the City was notified by Riverside County elections officials that a citizen initiated ballot measure to terminate Measure DD funding had qualified for the upcoming November election, the Menifee City Council, met at a May 14 Special City Council Meeting to consider the next steps as required by the State election laws. The City Council voted per the State election code, to prepare resolutions regarding the citizen ballot initiative to submit a proposed resolution that would repeal Measure DD, to the voters at the City’s General Municipal Election on November 3, 2020. The Council will consider adopting the resolution at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> City Council meeting. If successful at the November election, the measure would terminate local Measure DD funding approved by voters in 2016.

In 2016, the City of Menifee placed Measure DD on the ballot for voter consideration, which was a proposed one percent (1%) sales tax. Over two thirds (67%) of Menifee resident voters passed the measure. Voter-approved Measure DD funding has allowed the City to maintain and enhance vital city services and programs including adequate paramedic and firefighter staffing and equipment and the creation of Menifee’s own police department, which will increase the number of officer hours by 67% to serve and protect the community. Among other services, Measure DD has funded projects to improve roads safety and maintenance, and traffic congestion across the entire City.

As reported in the City’s “Measure DD Repeal Impact Report,” Measure DD funds are required to remain local and are not subject to state takeaways. An independent Citizen Oversight Committee provides review of Measure DD budgets and uses, and makes recommendations to the City Council to ensure the funds are utilized as identified in the measure by the voters. Measure DD funds pay for critical City services, including public safety (Police and Fire services), and current and future infrastructure needs.

If the repeal is enacted, and the estimated annual \$12 million in Measure DD funding was eliminated from the City’s budget, it would have far reaching effects on city services given the current fiscal uncertainty, and unanticipated revenue loss caused by the COVID-19 crisis. The federal government has not yet provided aid directly to local agencies (other than cities over 500,000), and the State of California’s \$60 billion budget shortfall means it is unlikely that the City will receive significant relief from the State, and that existing city funding is at risk from being taken from the State again like VLF to close state budget gaps.

“Measure DD funding has helped fortify the City’s financial position,” says City Manager Armando Villa. “Tough choices will need to be made in the City, if Measure DD is ultimately repealed especially at a time when we need to continue addressing public safety and economic development amid the COVID-19 crises.”



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For more information or to read the Measure DD Impact Report, please see item 4.3 from the following link: <http://menifeeca.ig2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=1656>. For questions regarding the impact report or Measure DD, please contact Jeff Wyman, Assistant City Manager, at [jwyman@cityofmenifee.us](mailto:jwyman@cityofmenifee.us) or visit the city's website at [www.cityofmenifee.us](http://www.cityofmenifee.us).

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**ABOUT MENIFEE:** *Situated in the heart of southern Riverside County along Interstate 215, Menifee is a vibrant, new city of more than 97,000 residents who enjoy a pleasant year-round climate, abundant recreational offerings, reasonably priced housing and convenient proximity to some of Southern California's premiere attractions and employment centers. Within its 50 square miles, Menifee's business, retail and entertainment outlets are starting to shape the community's character and this growing economic base is also contributing favorably to the city's strong financial position. Menifee's growing family-oriented population values the city's ongoing commitment to public safety, community events and smart growth for the future. All of these elements are working together to support the city's strategic vision to make Menifee one of the state's most promising new cities.*