

CITY OF REDLANDS
MEASURE T CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Special Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2026

Redlands City Council Chambers, 35 Cajon St., Redlands, CA 92373

Committee Members Present:

Ruth Cook, Chairwoman, District 1
Scott Welsh, Vice Chair, District 5
Edward Millican, Secretary, District 3
Melisa Castro, District 2
Suzanne Teele, District 4
Eli Salazar, Non-Public Safety Bargaining Unit
Matthew Swenson, Public Safety Bargaining Unit

All Committee members were present.

Staff:

Danielle Garcia
James Garland
Valerie Abrego
Miriam Valtierra
Marie Datuin

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Cook called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. The presence of a quorum was noted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public wished to address the committee.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 3, 2026, meeting of this Committee were approved, with an amendment, by a unanimous vote.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. After introducing the staff present, Garland reviewed the Committee's charge, which is to ensure that Measure T expenditures are within the parameters promised to voters when they approved Measure T in 2020, and to advise the City Council regarding the use of Measure T revenue according to Council and community priorities.

Garland then proceeded with an overview of the City Manager's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028, as it relates to Measure T expenditures. In response to a question from Teele, Garcia and Garland acknowledged the numerous uncertainties involved with forecasting future revenues and of expenditures, and agreed that the two-year budget cycle seems to have been helpful. Garcia estimated that 15% of total City revenues are Measure T funds. Salazar asked when the City actually receives its calculated sales tax revenue from the state; Garcia said there is a four-month lag. Millican asked if the projects listed on p. 10 of the City Manager's

Presentation represent the bulk of proposed Measure T expenditures for FY 2027 and FY 2028; Garcia answered that they do. Swenson observed that there has been a great growth in calls for firefighter services since the early 2000s, and more City growth is planned, with no increase in firefighter staffing. He suggested this should be a City priority. Teele commented that police and fire services are of the highest importance and asked if this Committee's function is to make recommendations to the City Council; staff answered in the affirmative.

B. Following the presentation of City Manager's proposed budget, a discussion followed regarding a possible recommendation by the Committee to the City Council regarding the City Manager's proposed use of Measure T funds in FY 2027 and FY 2028. Swenson reiterated his position on firefighter staffing and observed that the maintenance of safety service levels was a major justification for passage of Measure T. Welsh said that if the Committee feels City needs are not being met, we should say so. Cook agreed that it is appropriate for this Committee to advise the City Council. Millican noted that it is the Council's job to set City priorities, but also observed that this Committee is meant to be an advisory body. Castro noted that tax increases are a burden on City residents; Garcia explained that increases in sales tax receipts are due to more activity by consumers, and the City has not increased tax rates.

After further discussion by the Committee, Millican made, and Teele seconded, a motion for the Committee to report to the City Council, first, that the City Manager's proposed expenditures of Measure T funds for FY 2027 and FY 2028 do fall within the parameters approved by voters in 2020 and, second, our Committee recommends the City Council give highest priority to safety service needs in allocation of Measure T revenues. Swenson said safety staffing needs should specifically mentioned, and this was accepted as a friendly amendment. As amended, the motion was unanimously agreed to.

The Committee agreed that our report would be presented at the City Council meeting June 2, 2026 – which is the earliest date the City budget might be approved. Cook and Millican will prepare the report and present it to the Council.

C. The Committee agreed that our next meeting will be February 27, 2027, to review the City's actual expenditures for FY 2027 and FY 2028. Abrego will coordinate with Committee members to make the arrangements, as usual.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, Dennis Bell addressed the Committee regarding the need for renovation of the Sunset Reservoir. Cook thanked Mr. Bell for his remarks and noted that funding for the reservoir does not involve Measure T revenues, so does not fall within the purview of this Committee.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairwoman Cook at 2:46 pm.