

Safer Marina

Upgrading Essential City Facilities to Keep Marina Safe

Questions & Answers

Q: What challenges is the City of Marina facing?

A: Marina's population has more than doubled since the City incorporated in 1975, yet we still rely on the same fire stations, police station and city facilities that were built for a much smaller population. These aging facilities are impacting Marina's ability to maintain rapid emergency response times, disaster and emergency preparedness and other city services that are essential for keeping Marina residents safe.

Despite this challenge, thanks to careful budgeting, state and federal grant funding, and revenue from new development, Marina is opening new parks, upgrading playgrounds, and embarking on an exciting revitalization of the downtown area. However, much of this funding is restricted for specific uses, leaving other critical needs unmet.

Q: How are aging and outdated facilities impacting Marina's safety and city operations?

A: The city is operated from portable buildings that are over 45 years old and were intended to be temporary when they were installed. The temporary modular buildings have a service life of 25-30 years. Emergency planning, operations, disaster preparedness, law enforcement and programs for children, youth, and seniors occur in outdated and aging facilities, many of which were inherited from the military. The City has operated out of these buildings for almost double the service life of what the structures can withstand. In the event of a critical incident like an earthquake, many city facilities may not remain operational and hinder emergency response, in a time of great need for our residents.

Q: How do aging facilities impact rapid 9-1-1 emergency response times?

A: Over the last 8 years, 9-1-1 calls to the Marina Fire Department have increased by more than 50% and approximately 80% of those calls were for medical emergencies requiring the quick response of a paramedic responding from a local fire station. Because Marina's aging fire stations were built for a much smaller population, they are not located near many Marina residents, resulting in average response times of eight to ten minutes while the national standard for rapid emergency response times is five minutes. In the event of a heart attack, stroke, accident or other emergency, seconds can be the difference between life and death. The fire station at the Presidio of Monterey that has served parts of Marina for many years has relocated outside of Marina and may further delay emergency response times.

Q. How is the City planning to address these issues?

A: The City has developed plans for safe and modern facilities to:

- Ensure firefighters, paramedics and police officers can respond quickly in a disaster or emergency
- Improve 9-1-1 emergency response times to medical emergencies, fires and accidents

- Provide seismically safe facilities for emergency operations, disaster preparedness and other city operations
- Renovate existing unused city facilities to provide year-round recreation, swimming and other safe activities for children, teens, families and seniors.

Q: How might improvements to aging city facilities be funded?

A: The cost to upgrade Marina's aging facilities is beyond what the City's current budget can support. The City Council is considering placing a local funding measure on the ballot for local voters to consider.

Q: What type of local funding measure is being considered to address aging city facilities?

A: While no final decisions have been made, the most likely funding measure under consideration is a general obligation bond measure that would provide funding to upgrade local facilities over the next five to ten years and the cost could be paid off over the next 30 years. The estimated size of a bond measure needed to complete the identified upgrades is \$50 — \$65 million.

Q: How much would a local funding measure cost?

A: While the details of a local funding measure are still being determined, the cost of a general obligation bond is based on the assessed value (not market value) of properties. The assessed value is based on the original purchase price of a property and is typically much lower than the current market value of a property. In other words, those who have lived in their homes the longest and have lower original purchase prices will pay the least. In addition to residential homeowners, businesses and other property owners will pay the cost as well.

Q: If a local funding measure is approved by Marina voters, how can we be sure the funds will be spent as promised?

A: If approved, funds from a local funding measure would be subject to strict fiscal accountability protections, including:

- Required public disclosure of all spending
- An independent oversight committee and mandatory annual audits
- A requirement that all funds must stay local to improve facilities in Marina only

Q: Who could serve on the independent citizens' oversight committee?

A: Any resident of the City of Marina would be eligible to apply to serve on the citizens' oversight committee. The role of the oversight committee is to review the use of voter approved funds and report to the public if the funds have been used for the purposes promised in the measure.

Q: When would a local funding measure appear on the ballot for voter consideration?

A: While no final decisions have been made, the City Council is considering placing a measure on the November 5, 2024 General Election ballot.

Q: Who would get to vote on a local funding measure?

A: All registered voters in the City of Marina would be eligible to vote on a measure and support from 66.7% of voters who cast ballots would be needed for approval.

Q: Where can I find additional information or provide feedback?

A: Visit CityofMarina.org for more information. As the City plans for a safer Marina, please share your ideas and ask questions. Please contact vision50@cityofmarina.org or (831) 884-1211.

For more information and updates:

CityOfMarina.org