



Town of Atherton Parcel Tax Measures S & T *On November 3, 2009 Ballot*

At the regular City Council meeting of July 15, 2009, the Atherton City Council approved an Ordinance calling for a special municipal election to submit to the voters:

1. An ordinance authorizing the renewal of the parcel tax at the same level for an additional four years (Measure S),
2. An ordinance to permit spending the proceeds of the parcel tax for the same period (Measure T).

Measures S & T will be on the November 3, 2009 ballot

The full text of Ordinance 581 including the complete list of tax rates can be found on the Town's Special Election web page at www.ci.atherton.ca.us, under Announcements. Click on "November 3, 2009 Election," then "Ordinance 581."

Measure S represents the ordinance "authorizing the renewal of a special tax to continue to provide funding for Town police and emergency services, including maintaining neighborhood police patrols and the Town's ability to respond to emergencies, repair and maintain streets, and repair and construct storm drains for four years." Measure "S" requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

Measure T is the technical part of the parcel tax which allows the Town to use the tax by, "increasing the appropriation limit for four years to permit spending of the proceeds of a voter-approved parcel tax." Measure "T" requires a simple majority to pass.

The current parcel tax, approved June 2005, was for a five-year term and will expire June 2010. It currently represents approximately 17% of the Town's annual budget, by providing \$1.86 million per fiscal year. 100% of the parcel tax revenue goes into the Town's budget; whereas, only 14% of the property tax revenue collected flows to the Town for its use.

The Town of Atherton's primary source of revenue is from property tax. When Prop 13 was passed in 1978, the Town went to its residents with the first parcel tax in 1980. Over the past 30 years the parcel tax has been a vital source of revenue to fund public safety programs such as the disaster preparedness program, police services, drainage system projects, and other public works projects.

For the majority of properties of ½ acre to 2 acres in size with a dwelling, the annual tax amount is \$750. There is a range of rates in 11 categories of the tax, each based on parcel size, whether the property is improved or unimproved, along with special categories for schools and other private property.



Statue of Diana at Holbrook-Palmer Park Photo by Melanie Brabenc

If the parcel tax is renewed at its current rate level for the next four years, the Town will continue to use its revenues for public safety, police services, street repairs, and drainage improvements.

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IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE S AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE ATHERTON PARCEL TAX FOR AN ADDITIONAL FOUR YEARS

The California Constitution and state law authorize the voters of a town, by a two-thirds majority, to approve a parcel tax for specified purposes.

This measure would extend, for four years, at the current rates, a parcel tax for the following purposes: (1) police emergency response services; (2) street repair and maintenance; (3) drainage facility repair and maintenance and (4) capital improvements.

Before levying the parcel tax, the City Council must adopt an annual budget. It must then hold a duly noticed public hearing on the proposed tax. The tax may not exceed the amount the City Council determines to be necessary to provide adequate levels of the municipal services and capital improvements described above, after deducting the projected revenue to be gathered from other sources.

The tax on individual parcels may not exceed in any year the amounts set forth in Section 4 of the proposed ordinance authorizing the tax. A copy of the ordinance is included in the ballot materials.

The tax will be a lien on individual parcels and may be collected by the Town or the County Tax Collector at the option of the City Council.

Any monies raised by this parcel tax will be deposited in a special fund and may be used only for the described municipal services and capital improvements.

Authority to levy this tax will commence for the fiscal year 2010-2011 and will expire after fiscal tax year 2013-2014.

A "yes" vote is a vote to maintain the Town's special parcel tax at its current levels.

A "no" vote is a vote to end the levy of a special parcel tax for the Town.

Wynne Furth
City Attorney, Town of Atherton

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE T INCREASING THE APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT TO PERMIT SPENDING THE PROCEEDS OF A VOTER-APPROVED TAX

If this measure is approved by a majority of the voters, the Town of Atherton's appropriations limit will be increased by an amount equal to one and a half times the amount of any voter-approved parcel tax. This adjustment would be in effect between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2014.

Article XIII B of the California Constitution establishes as appropriations (expenditure) limit for California cities and towns. The voters may increase the appropriations limit, but only for four years at a time. This measure does not adopt or increase taxes.

A "yes" vote is a vote to increase the Town's appropriations limit so that any voter-approved parcel tax may be collected and spent.

A "no" vote is a vote to limit the collection and expenditure of any voter-approved parcel tax to a level that, combined with certain other revenues, does not exceed the Town's statutory appropriation limit.

The text of the ordinance increasing the appropriation limit is included in the ballot materials.

Wynne Furth
City Attorney, Town of Atherton

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Jerry Gruber
Editor
Melanie Brabenec
Assistant Editor
Ed Jasmin
Graphic Designer



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Public Works Projects Completed Since the Last Voter-Approved Renewal of Parcel Tax in 2005

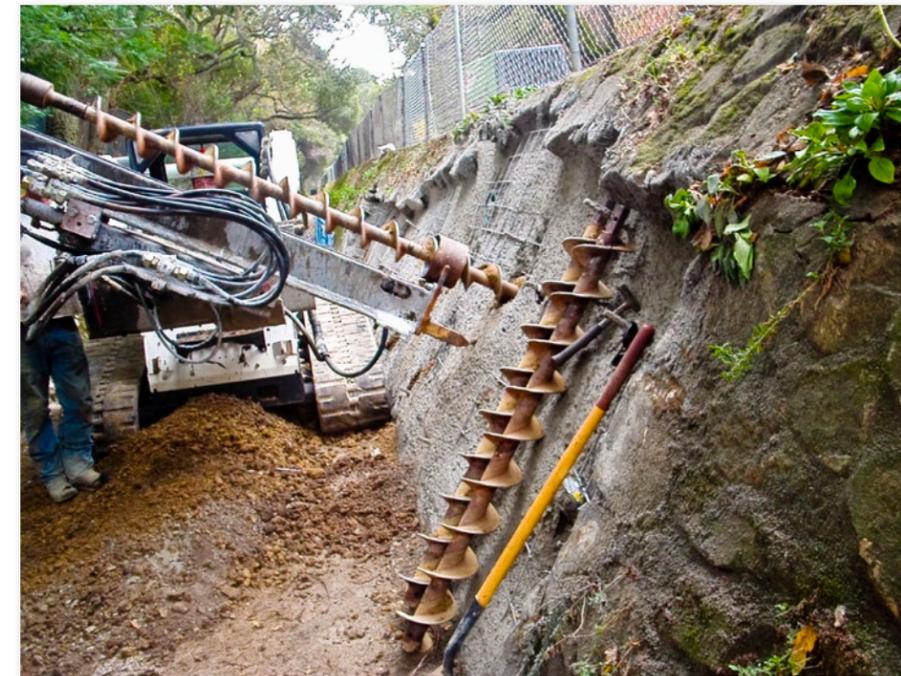
- **Street Reconstruction 2** – Flood Circle, Linden Avenue, Luburnum Road, Magnolia Drive/Prior Lane cul-de-sac
- **Selby Lane** – El Camino Real to West Selby Lane with bike lanes and walkable shoulders for Selby Lane students
- **Upper Atherton Channel Phase 1** Channel stabilization project with new drop structure, weir for red-legged frog pond, and two retaining walls
- **Cape/Slurry Seal** – 21 streets cape sealed and 4 streets slurry sealed
- **Marsh Road Wall Design** Conceptual design and geotechnical testing and engineering for channel wall supporting Marsh Road
- **Street Reconstruction 3** – Austin Ave (Atherton to Alameda), Barry Lane (66-86 cul-de-sac), Camino al Lago (Alameda to Barney), Redwood Way, Normandy Way, Bermetta Way, and Watkins Avenue (El Camino to tracks)
- **Marsh Road Wall Emergency Construction** – Soil nail an 80' failed section of wall
- **Park Trail & Bridge Design** Design needed for project (construction funded by federal Regional Trails Program grant and Atherton Dames contribution)
- **Town Emergency Water Well in Park** – Potable water available in park in case of emergency



Selby Lane Before Reconstruction



Selby Lane After Reconstruction



Soil Nail Drilling at Marsh Road and the Atherton Channel



Installation of Park Pedestrian Bridge

- **Park Path behind Carriage House** Matching funds for State Park grants and Atherton Dames contribution
- **Renovation of 160 Watkins House** Upgrade Town house in Park
- **Park Landscape Design** – Design landscaping for fountain, playground restroom, tennis court buffer, and Carriage House Courtyard
- **Valparaiso Reconstruction** Reconstruct Atherton side of Valparaiso Avenue from El Camino Real to Atherton Oaks, partially funded by Federal Surface Transportation Program grant
- **Park Path behind Carriage House** Matching funds for State Park grants and Atherton Dames contribution
- **Valparaiso Overlay** – Joint project with Menlo Park to overlay (provide final driving surface) from El Camino Real to North Lemon, partially funded by Federal Surface Transportation Program grant
- **Drainage Design** – Design of six drainage projects from the 2001 Nolte Study
- **Lloyd Park Sidewalk Repairs** Replaced damaged sidewalk to prevent tripping hazards, partially funded by an ABAG grant
- **Park Main House and Playschool roofs** – Re-roof two buildings
- **Park Fountain** – Landscape and reinstall the historic fountain in the Main House lawn
- **Park Sewer Replacement** Replace failed sewer main from Watkins Avenue to the Pavilion
- **Park Tennis Court Fence Replacement** – Replace rusted galvanized fence fabric with plastic coated mesh
- **Park Main House Porch** – Rehabilitate support beams and replace deck
- **Water Tower Lawn** – Provide matching funds for Atherton Dames funded project

Your Police Services



Stent Hall, Menlo School, Atherton Police Department

Many residents are unaware of the variety of services provided by our Police Department. This article highlights and explains these unique and valuable services.

The Atherton Police Department's mission is to maintain the quality of life we enjoy and to ensure that our Town is a safe place to live, work, and visit. This is accomplished through safeguarding individual liberties, building community partnerships, preventing crime, and resolving those crimes which do occur. The Police Department is committed to a goal of excellence and dedication to the community it serves.

The Police Department operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Citizens who call the Police Department talk to an

Atherton dispatcher who immediately radios the reported information to officers in the field. Our goal is to always have at least three officers on duty around the clock. This level of staffing assures a quick response to emergency calls for assistance and allows officers sufficient unencumbered patrol time to proactively address issues in our community. In Fiscal year 08/09, Atherton Police Officers were involved in more than 12,800 incidents! An incident is any call from the community and any proactive event generated by an officer while on patrol.

Alarm Monitoring

Residents with alarm systems connected to the Atherton Police Department have their alarms monitored in the Communications Center. There is no charge to connect or monitor your alarm.

Communications Center

All business and 9-1-1 calls go through our Communications Center. It is a modern facility utilizing the latest technology in order to efficiently and effectively handle emergencies, concerns, and complaints.

Resident Key File

As a voluntary service provided by the Police Department, the Communications Center maintains a file with keys to residents' homes enabling officers to gain entry into homes without force should there be an emergency in your home.

Vacation And Security Checks

The Atherton Police Department will provide a personal check of your residence while your home is unoccupied. As a service to residents who feel special attention is required, we will do a "drive by" check of your property (spot check). People find this service valuable when they are home alone, have lost the keys to their house, have received suspicious telephone calls, and where there have been publicized absences from home.

Defibrillators

The Atherton Police Department was the first police department on the West Coast and only the second in the nation to deploy defibrillators in its fleet of police vehicles to treat victims of sudden cardiac arrest. Within a few months, our officers saved the life on an Atherton resident! We are almost always first on the scene of a medical emergency.

Disaster Preparedness

Atherton Police work in conjunction with the Menlo Park Fire District, who is charged with Disaster Preparedness, to better safeguard our community in the event of a disaster.

D.A.R.E. Program

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) is a program that reaches out to students and gives parents a platform to initiate discussions with their children regarding drug and alcohol abuse, personal safety, and making the right choices.

The Canine Unit

The Atherton Police Department Canine Unit was created to help the department with its primary function, the preservation of life and property. K-9's can also be used to track lost children and missing adults due to an earthquake or other natural or man-made disaster.

Identity Theft

Identity theft is a crime in which an imposter obtains key pieces of personal identifying information and uses that information to steal from you. The Atherton Police Department detectives specifically trained in this expanding area of criminal activity.

Video Monitoring Services

Homeowners use cameras to monitor their gates and doors and to keep an eye on their homes while they are away. Some corporations even use cameras to monitor the properties of their executives. The Atherton Police Department is now in a position to receive feeds from your cameras. A live camera feed of your residence shortens our virtual response time to mere seconds and allows us to better gauge how we respond to events.

Just remember, we are here 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, 365 days a year . . . for you.

KEY ELECTION DATES — MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- ✓ Last day to register to vote in the election (if you are not already registered) is **October 19, 2009**. Call the County Registrar of Voters at 650-312-5222 for a voter registration card to be sent to you, or you may pick one up at the Atherton Town Administrative Office, or at any post office.
- ✓ Sample ballots will be mailed to all registered voters in Atherton during the period of: **September 24, 2009 through October 20, 2009**.
- ✓ Absentee ballots may be applied for during the period of: **October 5, 2009 through October 27, 2009**.
- ✓ If you are registered as a Permanent Absentee Voter, your absentee ballot will be mailed to you on: **October 5, 2009**.
- ✓ Absentee ballots may be returned to the County Elections Office until and including Election Day. Absentee ballots may also be dropped off at the Atherton Town Administrative Office before **Election Day, November 3, 2009**.
- ✓ Polling places will be open **7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 3, 2009**.
- ✓ If you have an absentee ballot you need to drop off on the day of the election, please take the ballot to your nearest polling place.
- ✓ Your polling place will be shown on the back of your sample ballot, or you may call the County Registrar of Voters at 650-312-5222 and press “0” to speak to someone for information. Closer to the date of the election, polling places will be posted for voter look-up on the County Elections Office web page at www.shapethefuture.org.
- ✓ The election is being conducted by the County of San Mateo Elections Office 650-312-5222, with notices and campaign statements being filed with the Atherton City Clerk’s office, 650-752-0500. Questions regarding the election may be addressed to Jerry Gruber, City Manager of the Town of Atherton at 650-752-0500.



I would like to take this opportunity to say hello to all Athertonians and to let you know that my staff and I are here to help you. If you have any concerns, would like to find out more information on a particular item, or just want to stop by and say hello, please feel free to do so. My staff and I look forward to providing you professional service, a timely response, and a warm and friendly smile.

Jerry Gruber, City Manager

Members of the Town Council

Meet the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
Town Council Chambers • 94 Ashfield Road • Atherton

Jerry Carlson, Mayor

jcarlson@ci.atherton.ca.us
321-1327

Kathleen McKeithen, Vice Mayor

kmckaitben@ci.atherton.ca.us
321-3633

Charles E. Marsala, Council Member

cmarsala@ci.atherton.ca.us
328-7113

Jim Dobbie, Council Member

jdobbie@ci.atherton.ca.us
327-3946

Elizabeth Lewis, Council Member

elewis@ci.atherton.ca.us
533-8830

OUR MISSION

Town of Atherton

Organizational Mission Statement

The Mission of the Administration of the Town of Atherton is to:

- Provide high-quality, innovative services;
- Appreciate and develop human resources;
- Manage physical plant and financial resources efficiently;
- Protect the unique environment that makes Atherton special.



INCORPORATED SEPTEMBER 12, 1923

Directory of Town Offices

Main Number: 650-752-0500
Fax Number: 650-688-6528
Email: atherton@ci.atherton.ca.us
Website: www.ci.atherton.ca.us

Administration

General Information/Post Office
752-0500

Jerry Gruber
City Manager
752-0504

Eileen Wilkerson
Assistant City Manager
752-0546

Theresa DellaSanta
Executive Assistant/
Deputy City Clerk
752-0529

Town Planner

Neal Martin
Town Planner
752-0544

Lisa Costa Sanders
Deputy Town Planner
752-0544

City Attorney

Wynne Furth
City Attorney
752-0500

Police

Emergency: 911
General Information
688-6500
Glenn Nielsen
Chief of Police
752-0508

Finance

Louise Ho
Finance Director
752-0552

Public Works

Information/Permits
752-0570

Duncan Jones
Director of Public Works
752-0532

Steve Tyler
Superintendent of Public Works
752-0541

Jean Cardona
Parks Program Manager
752-0534

Contacts & Telephone Numbers

Building

Information/Inspections
752-0560
Daily Inspection Schedule
752-0561

Mike Wassman
Building Official
752-0518

Kathy Hughes Anderson
Town Arborist
752-0526

Robert Cushing
Code Enforcement
752-0553

Library

General Information
328-2422

Library events
www.smcl.org/libraries/ath

Heritage Room

Atherton Heritage Association
688-6540

Contact Information

Town of Atherton

91 Ashfield Road
Atherton, CA 94027

Helpful Phone Numbers

Menlo Park Fire District
Emergency: 911 or 323-2404
Business Administration Office
688-8400

County Services

Animal Control
363-4840
Assessor
363-4500
Richard Gordon,
Supervisor, 3rd District
363-4569

Voter Registration
312-5222

Mosquito Abatement
For Collecting and
Testing Dead Birds
For West Nile Virus
(877) 968-2473

Service Calls
Or Information
344-8592

www.smcmad.org

Utilities

Comcast Cable
800-945-2288
California Water Service
367-6800
Pacific Gas & Electric
800-743-5000
Fair Oaks Sanitation District
363-4100
West Bay Sanitation District
321-0384

Waste/Recycling

Allied Waste
592-2411

Town Community Calendar Fall 2009

October 2009

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2009

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2009

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

October 2009

5 ABSENTEE BALLOTS MAILED

- 6 Atherton Rail Committee 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers
- 7 Environmental Programs Committee 10:00 a.m. Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
- 7 Park & Rec. Commission 5:30 p.m. H-P Park, Main House
- 7 General Plan Committee **CANCELLED**
- 12 **Columbus Day Observed** **Town Offices Closed**
- 21 City Council 7:00 p.m. Council Chambers
- 22 Tree Committee 4:00 p.m. Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
- 27 Arts Committee 1:00 p.m. H-P Park, Garden Room
- 28 Planning Commission 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers

November 2009

3 PARCEL TAX RENEWAL — SPECIAL ELECTION

- 4 Special General Plan Committee 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers
- 4 Park & Rec. Commission 6:30 p.m. H-P Park, Main House
- 10 Transportation Committee 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers
- 11 **Veterans Day Observed** **Town Offices Closed**
- 18 City Council 7:00 p.m. Council Chambers
- 24 Arts Committee 1:00 p.m. H-P Park, Garden Room
- 25 Planning Commission **CANCELLED**
- 26 **Thanksgiving Day Observed** **Town Offices Closed**
- 27 **Day After Thanksgiving Day Observed** **Town Offices Closed**
- TBA Tree Committee

December 2009

- 1 Atherton Rail Committee 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers
- 2 Park & Rec. Commission 6:30 p.m. H-P Park, Main House
- 2 Planning Commission 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers
- 16 City Council 7:00 p.m. Council Chambers
- 22 Arts Committee 1:00 p.m. H-P Park, Garden Room
- 23 Planning Commission **CANCELLED**
- 25 **Christmas Day Observed** **Town Offices Closed**
- TBA Tree Committee

For information on changes and special meetings call 752-0500 or check the Town Community Calendar at www.ci.atherton.ca.us



Town of Atherton

91 Ashfield Road
Atherton, CA 94027

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Fall Newsletter

ECRWSS

Atherton Resident

Atherton, CA 94027

Important Information Inside
Parcel Tax Renewal — Special Election
November 3, 2009