

From: nrubenstein@comcast.net
To: [CITYCOUNCIL-List](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed \$300 Million Infrastructure Bond Measure - Item 7A on July 7, 2026 City Council Agenda File # 2026-6118. Public Comment
Date: Sunday, June 28, 2026 8:56:13 AM

Alameda City Council Members and Staff:

I am a long-time Alameda resident. I appreciate the efforts of City Council and Staff to address the City's infrastructure needs and support the issuance of a general obligation bond to address that issue. Unfortunately, the proposed \$300 million bond measure described in Agenda #7-A should not be approved unless it is modified to specify what the bond proceeds will be spent for.

As discussed in the Staff report, the City has conducted studies over the past several years, identifying specific infrastructure projects that the City needs and the cost of each such project, and concluding that the total cost is about \$800 million. Clearly, the bond proposal will not generate enough money to pay for everything.

The proposed bond measure in Exhibit A lists five broad "categories of capital improvement projects" and examples of projects that are "authorized," but does not specify any that the City actually agrees to fund with the bond proceeds. It also says that the projects funded may not even be on the list.

This is not an acceptable procedure. The decision about which projects have priority and will be funded is a policy issue that the City Council should address, specify, and justify in its submission to the voters. The City Council has the information required to do that. In the absence of such a plan, decisions will be made in the future on an ad hoc basis, with the money flowing to the loudest voices in the room.

As a practical matter, since sea level rise and flooding are a certainty and pose an existential threat to the City, action to address those problems is the most likely to receive widespread support even from residents who also support addressing other issues. To maximize the chances of voter approval, the bond measure should specify that proceeds will be used for this purpose, along with specified other projects the City Council deems essential that can be funded within the \$300 million bond limit.

The City Council has an opportunity to do something valuable for the residents of Alameda. I hope it does so.

Neil Rubenstein
nrubenstein@comcast.net