



## New plants, flowers to line San Rafael's Point San Pedro Road

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Brand new plants and flowers are coming to medians along Point San Pedro Road in San Rafael and unincorporated Marin County after the San Rafael City Council approved formation of an assessment district there.

The unanimous council vote came at a special meeting Wednesday afternoon, during which Public Works Director Nader Mansourian announced that 61.4 percent of 1,901 ballots submitted were in favor of the 30-year, \$75 annual assessment. The assessment cost would increase each year by 3 percent or the Consumer Price Index, whichever is greater.

The city had mailed 2,759 ballots to residents living in the proposed district, Mansourian said.

"Believe me these will be beautiful, and they will be well maintained," Mayor Al Boro said after the vote.

San Rafael and Marin County first built the medians in 1969 but turned off the water during a severe drought in the late 1970s. When the agencies turned the water back on several years later, many of the pipes and sprinklers were broken.

A water truck traveled up and down the road and manually irrigated the medians thereafter, but officials eventually stopped that service too. The medians now are filled with weeds.

The Point San Pedro Medians Committee, a neighborhood group that worked on the project since 2008, raised more than \$68,000 from 215 residents to pay for studies and community education.

"We did our best to notify the community," committee Chairman Andrew Perry said Wednesday, noting that his group held numerous meetings and went door to door.

"I think that's why we got a 70 percent turnout on this vote," Perry said.

Not everyone was enamored of the idea that taxes would go up to support aesthetic improvements.

"I'm on a fixed income, and if my taxes go up I would like it to be raised and go up for the schools, the fire department or the police department and not for an expensive landscaping improvement," Glenwood resident Joyce Siegel said at Monday's council meeting.

In coming days, the city will send letters to parcel owners asking how they want to pay their taxes, and that information will go to county officials by July 26.

City officials will then form a committee with neighbors to discuss design concepts, Mansourian said.



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