

Argument in Favor

Rebuttal to Measure For Measure B: Santa Clara Valley Water District Safe Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection

Rebuttal text starts here

Our community wants clean water, flood protection and healthy streams. Unfortunately, Measure B won't deliver on its promises and deserves a "NO" vote.

The Water District' "YES" argument emphasizes a safe reliable water supply – because that's what people care most about – but turns around and doesn't put much of the budget into that purpose. They emphasize pollutants, but don't focus their budget on the programs likely to really improve water quality. Environmental goals are left vague and without the budget to accomplish significant change. They try to reassure us by citing the citizen's oversight committee. But the citizen's committee for the existing tax made recommendations recently to protect \$15.7 million of environmental restoration reserves. Dismissing those recommendations, the District voted instead to distribute those reserves amongst the new tax's projects.

In response to a year's letters and expert testimony on how to write a strong, effective water-related measure focused on getting things done, the District made only minor changes and rejected most of the environmental community's major recommendations.

The Sierra Club and Audubon Society have debated (sometimes heatedly) whether or not to endorse Measure B. Why? Because some see that the Water District hasn't kept their environmental commitments and is not likely to (without major change). Check our website (www.envirosforlivingstreams.org) or theirs to see what they finally decided.

Vote NO on Measure B. Send the District back to the drawing board to write a balanced ballot measure we can trust – before the existing tax expires in 2016.

Richard McMurtry
Former Water Resources Engineer
Treasurer, Environmentalists for Living Streams

Larry Johmann
President
Western Waters Canoe Club

FILED

AUG 21 2012

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
By Shurup Deputy