

# VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET

## MEASURES, ANALYSES AND ARGUMENTS

(whichever is applicable to your ballot)

Arguments in support of, or in opposition to, the proposed laws are the opinions of the authors.

**G** Special Tax to Support Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Facilities in County Service Area No. 11, Lompico Community Zone of Benefit. Shall the County of Santa Cruz be authorized to support, preserve and provide parks and open space, and to support recreation and cultural programs for children, adults, and seniors in County Service Area No. 11, Lompico Community Zone of Benefit, by levying a special tax of \$25.00 per improved residential parcel effective July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2009?

### FULL TEXT OF BALLOT MEASURE G

#### RESOLUTION NO. 364-2003

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz resolves and orders that a special tax be levied within CSA #11 "L" for County parks, recreation, and cultural facilities and services, subject to approval of the special tax measure set forth in this Resolution by two-thirds of the registered voters in CSA #11 "L" voting in a special election, as follows:

1. Commencing with the 2004-2005 fiscal year on July 1, 2004, a special tax is to be levied against all improved parcels within CSA #11 "L" in the annual amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per improved parcel;
2. The special tax shall expire on July 1, 2009, unless the voters approve an extension of the special tax beyond that date in accordance with the law then in effect;
3. The proceeds of the special tax shall be used only for the purposes of providing, maintaining, and preserving County parks and open space, and operating recreation and cultural programs within CSA #11 "L", in accordance with the scope of the facilities and services authorized in such CSA #11 "L";
4. The special tax shall be collected on the property tax roll in the same manner and at the same time as County property taxes, and shall be subject to all the laws pertaining to the levy, collection, and enforcement of County property taxes; and
5. If any provision of this Resolution or of the special tax measure contained herein or the application of any such provisions to any persons or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision or application that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this extent the provisions thereof shall be severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz that, in accordance with the requirements of California Government Code Sections 50075.1 and 50075.3, the following accountability measures, among others, shall apply to the special tax: (a) the specific purposes of the special tax shall be those purposes identified above; (b) the proceeds of the special tax shall be applied only to those specific purposes identified above; (c) a separate account shall be created into which the proceeds of the special tax must be deposited; and (d) an annual written report shall be made to the Board of Supervisors showing

(i) the amount of funds collected and expended from the proceeds of the special tax and (ii) the status of any projects required or authorized to be funded from the proceeds of the special tax, as identified above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz that a special County election shall be, and the same is hereby called and ordered to be held within CSA #11 "L" on Tuesday, April 13, 2004, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the CSA #11 "L" the following special tax measure:

Special Tax to Support Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Facilities in County Service Area No.11, Lompico Community Zone of Benefit.

Shall the County of Santa Cruz be authorized to support, preserve and provide parks and open space, and to support recreation and cultural programs for children, adults, and seniors in County Service Area No.11, Lompico Community Zone of Benefit, by levying a special tax of \$25.00 per improved residential parcel effective July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2009?

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2003, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz by the following vote:

AYES:	SUPERVISORS Beautz, Wormhoudt, Campos, Stone and Pirie
NOES:	SUPERVISORS None
ABSENT:	SUPERVISORS None
ABSTAIN:	SUPERVISORS None

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### IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL MEASURE G

If this measure is approved by at least two-thirds of those voting on it, the County of Santa Cruz will be authorized to levy a special tax on real property within the Lompico Community Zone of Benefit of County Service Area No. 11. The tax would be imposed for five years at the annual rate of \$25.00 on each improved residential parcel of land within the Lompico Community Zone of Benefit.

The proceeds of the tax, if approved, may be used only for the following purposes: providing, maintaining, and preserving County parks and open space, and operating recreation and cultural programs within the Lompico Community Zone of Benefit, in accordance with the scope of the facilities and services which have been authorized for that portion of County Service Area No. 11.

In accordance with State law, the following accountability measures will apply to the special tax: a separate account shall be created into which the proceeds of the special tax must be deposited; and an annual written report shall be made to the County Board of Supervisors showing the amount of funds collected and expended from the proceeds of the special tax and the status of any projects required or authorized to be funded from the proceeds of the special tax.

If approved, the special tax will be collected by the Santa Cruz County Tax Collector in the same manner and subject to the same penalties as those property taxes which are based upon property value.

A "yes" vote is to approve imposition of the special tax.

A "no" vote is against imposition of the special tax.

DANA McRAE, COUNTY COUNSEL.

By Jane M. Scott, Assistant County Counsel

### FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT BY COUNTY AUDITOR MEASURE G

Measure G would create a new special tax for County Service Area 11 within the Zone of Benefit for the Lompico Community to provide for recreation and cultural programs for children, adults, and seniors in the zone. The Measure provides for an annual tax levy of \$25 per improved parcel. This is a special tax requiring a 2/3-voter approval. This special tax is estimated to produce \$11,800 each fiscal year for the said purpose of the zone within County Service Area No. 11. If approved, a separate fund will be established within the County Treasury to account for the receipt and disbursement of these monies. This special tax would sunset after five years on July 1, 2009 unless extended by the voters.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/ Gary A. Knutson, Auditor-Controller

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#### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE G

The "Lompico Community Center" has been improving the quality of life in Lompico for the last 15 years. This organization is made up of your neighbors that have donated their time and money to improve our community. There are no paid positions on the board. The park is not a county park, but is owned by the community. The community center has built a bus stop, put in play structures, torn down an abandoned building, and put in a basketball court. There is also a restroom, a pay phone, and most recently a vending machine. These improvements have help raise property values and pride in our community. Our community center also sponsors activities with our children; such as an Easter Egg Hunt, and a free basketball camp. Our community center also gives the kids the opportunity to work in the park during spring break. Since the spring cleanup project has started, graffiti and vandalism in the park has dropped drastically.

Previously we have gotten grants for our improvements. The grant monies have dried up. We must turn to ourselves. We need to replace the fencing around the park. The drive into the park, and parking areas could be paved. A visual alarm on the holding tank is needed so we could reopen the restroom. Other ideas include landscaping and professional maintenance for the restroom. We also need to pay for water, electricity, and insurance. The newsletter could be published on a more regular basis, keeping our community informed.

This is a \$25.00 a year for five years. At the end of the five years it would be subject to another vote in order to continue. Again these are your neighbors asking you to help us make our neighborhood a better place to live.

s/ Steven D. Nelson, President, Lompico Community Center

#### REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE G

##### Just Say "NO" to Measure G

The author of the argument in favor claims that: "The park is not a county park."

If that is true, **Why should Lompico residents turn over all of their Special Tax money to County of Santa Cruz bureaucrats to administer?**

The Measure G tax scheme is very strange in that there already exists two examples up the Valley in Alba Park and Boulder Creek of locally elected, independent and accountable Board of Directors. **Local control is a wonderful idea.**

##### **Why not try this in Lompico?**

Private foundations, non-profits and voluntary local donations would be better methods to accomplish the mission of Measure G. **Voters have recently approved multi-million dollar bonds to help improve parks in the State of California.**

##### **Why not go after those funds?**

When this tax measure fails, the undersigned will be happy to make the first voluntary donation of \$25 to that effort. **It's better to politely ask our Senior community to contribute...rather than forcing them to pay more in taxes.** This type of costly special election should be the last option after all other alternatives have been examined.

The People of Santa Cruz County all rely upon essential services such as Police and Fire. We are fortunate to be surrounded by a myriad of Local, Regional and State parks in our own backyard. **With the current poor fiscal climate and our local tax dollars being so scarce, it seems that Measure G is more of a want than a need.**

##### Please Vote NO on Measure G

Senior Coalition for Fair Taxation  
s/ Tom Walsh, Executive Director

s/ Vic Marani, Former Santa Cruz County Parks  
Commissioner

Citizens for Accountability in Government  
s/ Bob Suhr, Treasurer

s/ Kathy Hosick, Elected Member, 5<sup>th</sup> District Santa Cruz  
County Republican Party

s/ Michael "Mickey" Ponza, Retired Small Business Owner

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### ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE G

#### **Please vote NO on Measure G**

**Why should the Homeowners of Lompico be the Only Taxpayers** in the entire County of Santa Cruz to shoulder this Special Tax burden? In fact, there is no guarantee that the funds raised from CSA 11L will actually be used for any specifically listed facility improvements.

**Try Answering these Questions – Then Decide for Yourself...**

- Unlike the SLV School Parcel Tax which failed in June... **Where are the written guarantees that your tax money will not be used for administrator salaries?**
- If Parks Department bureaucrats are listening to community concerns, then **Why is there is no Senior Citizen Homeowner's Exemption in this tax?**
- Have the County Supervisors suddenly become more fiscally responsible? **County Voters Defeated a similar scheme to continue authorization of this tax in 1997.**
- **Why conduct a costly mailed ballot election to only Lompico residents** mere weeks after the regularly scheduled Presidential Primary on March 2<sup>nd</sup>?
- **DID YOU ASK for this Special Tax only for the taxpayers of Lompico?** There was no initiative petition process. The contact listed for Measure G on the Santa Cruz County Elections website is the highly paid Director of the County Parks Department. He is not even a resident of San Lorenzo Valley.

Instead of spending precious dollars on costly parcel tax special elections, perhaps the County of Santa Cruz should first look at cutting bloated Supervisor salaries. They should be actively soliciting citizen input and listening to creative ideas for cost savings.

Voters need to be extra vigilant before agreeing to special taxes forced upon those least able to pay. **We believe that local taxpayers, and especially, the Senior population of San Lorenzo Valley deserves this respect.**

**Your NO Vote on Measure G** will serve as an important wake-up call to the County.

#### **Thank You for Voting NO on Measure G**

s/ Tom Walsh, Executive Director, Senior Coalition For Fair Taxation

s/ Jeanell Martin, Former Santa Cruz County Parks Commissioner, SLV High Class of 1975 Graduate

s/ John Mancini, Chairman, Reform Party of Santa Cruz County, Hwy 9 – Paradise Park Resident

s/ Juan Escamilla, Chairman, Independent Party of Santa Cruz County, SLV High Class of 1977 Graduate

s/ Robert Vallerga, Actor

### REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE G

**Before voting on Measure G you need to decide whom to believe.**

The **Lompico Community Center (LCC)** initiated the measure after getting support through public meetings with Lompico homeowners. The LCC is responsible for the bus stop, play structures, restroom, basketball court, bus service, pay phone, vending machine, power, mural, propane coop, road repairs, newsletter, Easter egg hunt, park cleanup and basketball camp.

According to Water District records, **those that signed the Argument against Measure G don't live or own property in Lompico.** Have they ever set foot in Lompico? They try to make Measure G look like a County scheme to take your money. They may represent the taxpayers of San Lorenzo Valley, **but they do not represent the taxpayers of Lompico.**

**Voting YES on Measure G means the money is collected in Lompico and spent in Lompico on projects Lompico homeowners define.**

**To set the record straight:**

The measure clearly states the use of funds and accountability.

There are no paid LCC administrators

Lompico seniors support the LCC.

There was no county vote on this tax.

Mailing ballots is cost effective and insures every property owner the opportunity to be heard.

The law requires the County implement a CSA which is why County officials are involved.

**Taxpayers want "Bang for their Buck". The LCC has proven it can deliver.**

**Don't let outsiders speak AGAINST Lompico with political sound bites and false accusations.**

**Speak FOR Lompico. Vote YES on Measure G.**

Lompico Community Center

s/ Steven D. Nelson, President