

Argument Against Measure Q

The Watsonville Planned Growth and Farmland Protection Initiative (Measure Q) was created by special interests with no public input or review.

To get Measure Q on the ballot, the Committee collected voter signatures by disingenuously claiming that it protects the wetlands, but our wetlands are already protected by local, state, and federal regulations and Measure Q contains no reference to wetlands.

Measure Q would extend the current Urban Limit Line (ULL) to “protect our economy and environment,” but it would lock the City into the same failed policies of the last two decades for the 20 years.

20 years ago, a yearlong community visioning process produced the current Urban Limit Line. However, today it’s clear that this decision had serious unintended consequences.

The current ULL limited sites for jobs in Watsonville and Measure Q would continue to do so.

That’s why we are stuck commuting to Santa Cruz on crowded Highway 1, day after day, losing hours away from our families and burning expensive gas.

The current ULL limited the sites available for housing and Measure Q would continue to do so.

Limited housing rental and ownership opportunities make it harder for families and seniors to live in our community. The Measure Q claims to focus on ‘infill development,’ but it will not produce any additional housing.

Fortunately, there’s an alternative that gives residents a voice in determining where housing and job development could occur and continues to protect our wetlands and our agricultural character: Measure S allows the community to participate in the future planning and growth of our City, including housing and businesses that we need to thrive today.

Vote ‘no’ on Measure Q and ‘yes’ on Measure S to put the community’s priorities first.

s/Daniel Dodge, Jr., Pajaro Valley Unified School District Trustee

s/ Eduardo Montesino, Mayor-pro temp, City of Watsonville

s/ Nahara Villalobos, Community Member/Student

s/ Rebecca J. Garcia, City of Watsonville

s/ Lowell Hurst, City of Watsonville