



14 July 2020

Nai Hsueh, Chair
Valley Water Board of Directors
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

Dear Chair Hsueh:

On behalf of the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce, I'm writing to express our support for the Draft Community Preferred Plan that would be implemented should the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program be renewed, and urge the Valley Water Board of Directors to adopt the Plan and place the renewal of that program on the November 2020 ballot.

Providing flood protection is essential not only to prevent businesses from inundation and destruction, but also in securing jobs and bolstering a strong economy. Passage of this measure will help ensure businesses are protected from harmful environmental changes and subsequent costs.

This potential ballot measure, known as the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program has yielded the following draft priorities as part of the exploratory process:

- Ensure a safe, reliable water supply
- Reduce toxins, hazards and contaminants in our waterways
- Protect our water supply from earthquakes and natural disasters
- Restore wildlife habitat and provide open space
- Provide flood protection to homes businesses, schools, and highways
- Support public health and public safety for our community

The Chamber gave its full support of the original Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program plan several months ago. We see its renewal as important to our city and region, and fully endorse this plan. We encourage your Board to adopt and place this measure on the November ballot.

Sincerely

Peter Katz
President & CEO
Mountain View Chamber of Commerce

Michele King

Subject: FW: SCVWD Agenda Comment Form

From: system-generated@valleywater.org <system-generated@valleywater.org>

Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 1:09 PM

To: Clerk of the Board <clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org>

Subject: SCVWD Agenda Comment Form

Submitted on Tue, 07/14/2020 - 1:09 PM

Submitted values are:

Name

Rita Norton

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Board Meeting Date

2020-07-14

Agenda Item Number

2.7

I would like to

Express Opposition

Comment Form

As a long standing member of a District's Environmental Advisory Committee, the fact that this proposed new bond purports environmental stewardship but in fact eliminates dedicated funding is a serious and misleading aspect of this proposal and in a way suffers from "green-washing". — There should be a new focus on environmental education for underserved communities — Valley Water should step up and make good on previous environmental commitments.

The way the parcel tax is currently written, it puts the grant money in a single pot for various interests to compete for. As a result, environmental stewardship would likely receive less funding over the next eight years than if the measure were to fail and the 2012 Measure B were to continue until it expires in 2028.

I believe the proposal should clearly state what projects will be eligible for funding, how they are currently funded and why this is needed.

I strongly disagree with the role of the "Independent monitoring committee" as under the purview of the District Board. This committee should be convened by the County Board of Supervisors.

The lack of a sunset clause is a deal-breaker and not in keeping with open government and accountability.

California State Senate

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THIRTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES
LABOR, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
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APPROPRIATIONS
BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS &
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ENERGY, UTILITIES &
COMMUNICATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

July 7, 2020

Nai Hsueh, Chair
Santa Clara Valley Water Board of Directors
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

Re: Draft Community Preferred Plan of Safe Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program

Dear Chair Hsueh:

I am writing in support of the draft community preferred plan, which was developed through outreach to Valley Water District stakeholders over the past six months. These stakeholders include constituents and organizations located in my Senate District. I urge the Valley Water District Board of Directors to adopt the Plan and place the renewal on the November 2020 ballot.

Water is essential in addressing the needs of our communities, and having a safe supply for the future will require a plan that is both flexible and carefully considered. Voters would be able to consider priorities that stakeholders identified:

- Ensure a safe, reliable water supply
- Reduce toxins, hazards and contaminants in our waterways
- Protect our water supplies from earthquakes and other natural disasters
- Restore wildlife habitat and provide open space
- Provide flood protection to homes and businesses, schools and highways
- Support public health and public safety for our community

As a representative of this area, I know that residents have understood the reduction of risk from flood control projects coming into fruition along Permanente Creek in Mountain View and Rancho San Antonio, which come from the Safe, clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Plan. I support this plan, which has identified possible projects in Sunnyvale, Palo Alto, San Francisco Bay Shoreline protection in Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, plus a grants and partnerships to promote flood protection and environmental stewardship.

I urge the Board to adopt the plan and place this measure on the November ballot. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry Hill".

Jerry Hill
Senator, 13th District



CITY OF CAMPBELL
Mayor's Office

July 7, 2020

Nai Hsueh, Chair
Valley Water Board of Directors
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

Dear Chair Hsueh:

On behalf of the City of Campbell, I write to express support for the Draft Community Preferred Plan (the Plan) that would be implemented should the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program be renewed, and urge the Valley Water Board of Directors to adopt the Plan and place the renewal of that program on the November 2020 ballot.

I believe that ensuring a reliable supply of water is essential in addressing the needs of our communities. Passage of this measure would provide support for volunteer efforts and educational activities, safety protocols, and protection of our natural areas.

This potential ballot measure, known as the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program has yielded the following draft priorities as part of the exploratory process:

- Ensure a safe, reliable water supply
- Reduce toxins, hazards and contaminants in our waterways
- Protect our water supply from earthquakes and natural disasters
- Restore wildlife habitat and provide open space
- Provide flood protection to homes businesses, schools, and highways
- Support public health and public safety for our community

Nai Hsueh, Chair
July 7, 2020

The City of Campbell supports the Plan and urges the Board to adopt and to place this measure on the November ballot. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (408) 866-2125, or susanl@campbellca.gov.

Sincerely



Susan M. Landry
Mayor, City of Campbell

Via electronic mail
July 16, 2020

Honorable Nai Hsueh, Chair, and
Valley Water Board of Directors

RE: Support for Sunset in the renewal of a Safe Clean Water Parcel Tax

Dear Chair Hsueh and Board Members:

During the July 14th Board meeting, I found the joint statement from the Santa Clara County chapters of the League of Women Voters supporting a sunset clause for the proposed parcel tax renewal quite powerful. Yesterday, Marta Lugo was kind enough to send me the December 2, 2019, Valley Water Voter Survey Results compiled by FM3 Research and presented to the Board on December 10, 2019, (excerpt attached). I found it striking that, in a split sample, the difference between 31% of respondents “definitely” supporting ballot language with an ongoing parcel tax and 25% of respondents “definitely” supporting ballot language with a 15-year sunset is **“a difference just outside the [+/- 3.5%] margin of error”**(my emphasis added). For a total sample size of 823, that difference is 25 responses.

Yesterday during a ZOOM discussion with Valley Water staff and some of my colleagues, I mentioned that when Palo Alto presented to the voters a stormwater funding measure for capital projects plus operations & maintenance expenses without a sunset, it also need a two-thirds vote. It got a two-thirds NO vote. Subsequently, the voters handily approved measures that provided ongoing funding for operations & maintenance with a sunset for specified capital projects. That capital fund with another list of projects and another sunset date was renewed more recently.

I join the League of Women Voters in urging you to include a 15-year sunset in the proposed renewal measure. I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Trish Mulvey
(650) 326-0252 or mulvey@ix.netcom.com

Attachment

cc: Rick Callender, Marta Lugo, Darin Taylor, and interested parties

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: David Metz and Miranda Everitt, FM3 Research
RE: Valley Water Voter Survey Results
DATE: December 2, 2019

[Excerpt]

In the context of new ballot-language requirements, nearly three in five voters support extension of the existing parcel tax. Figure 2 below shows voter reactions to a draft 75-word ballot label meeting new state requirements for description of fiscal impact provisions; a 15-year sunset and version without a sunset provision were both tested using a split sample. Taken together, such a measure has support from just under three in five (58%), with more than one-third opposed (35%). The "ongoing" parcel tax version has slightly stronger support (31% "definitely" yes versus 25 percent for the 15-year sunset) -- a difference just outside the margin of error.

Methodology: *From Nov. 21-27, 2019, FM3 completed 823 online and live telephone interviews (on both landlines and cell phones) with likely November 2020 voters in the Valley Water district. Interviews were conducted in English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese. The margin of sampling error for the study is +/- 3.5% at the 95% confidence level; margins of error for population subgroups within the sample will be higher. Due to rounding, not all totals will sum to 100%.*

Via electronic mail

Jerry Hearn
144 El Nido Road
Portola Valley, CA 94025

July 16, 2020

Honorable Nai Hsueh, Chair, and
Valley Water Board of Directors

Re: Sunset provision in the proposed parcel tax renewal

Dear Chair Hsueh and Members of the Board:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input into this effort. It is my opinion that including a sunset provision in Valley Water's parcel tax proposal would be advantageous for the reasons below.

Input and Feedback

In the non-profit world in which I volunteer, we need to be continually asking our clients, our public, for funding to support our efforts. We understand the desire for a permanent source of funding as it would free up more of our time to concentrate on the work of our missions. Many of us spend up to 10% or more of our funding and time on a regular basis to secure the funding necessary for our programs. However, this necessary activity also provides us the benefit of being constantly in touch, in a real way, with our public as to how they value our programs. It is one thing to offer input to a survey; it is a completely different to open up one's pocketbook and support efforts with hard-earned cash. I submit that returning to the voters on a 15-year basis to conduct such a process is worth the effort to get real feedback about, and not just hypothetical responses to, both performance and future plans.

Survey Information

As best as I can determine, the support for the proposed measure is garnering somewhere in the range of 60% in favor, and the balance opposed. This is right on the edge of the proposal not passing. As I read over the comments to the survey, many of them touched on concerns about costs to water, taxes, etc., indicating that

this is one of the issues upmost on the respondent's' minds, even if they, in spirit, are in support of the projects as outlined in the survey. With this data as a starting point, it will clearly need a lot of excellent outreach and education to be successful. I would offer that, were a sunset provision as part of this proposal, it would strengthen this marginal support to a point where the proposal may be passed.

Current Multi-Crises Situation

We find ourselves at this moment in a period great personal, social, economic and political uncertainty. The Covid crisis has introduced an element of fear and concern in our communities that has few parallels in United States history. Combined with the instabilities and enormous changes in the economy and potential pivotal changes in our political structure, this crisis, as most crises do, engenders in people a very conservative response. In particular, when voters feel unassured as to their future jobs, income and employment stability, they tend to not vote for any tax measures, even if they are, as this proposal would be, merely extending what already exists. And the fact that a tax is potentially *in perpetuity* does nothing to alter this tendency; as a matter of fact, it exacerbates it. History has repeatedly shown this to be true.

Competing Ballot Measures

When pondering whether to put a measure on the ballot, one should always consider what other measures have already been proposed for that election. I am sure that staff have already done this. However, when I look at my information, I can see some severe challenges to this parcel tax measure, chiefly from the anti-tax organizations.

- Proposition 15 proposes a major change to Proposition 13 passed in 1978, often called the “third rail” of California politics. In proposing to amend that law to correct the inequalities that fell on residential property owners which were avoided by commercial interests, to many anti-tax advocates that will feel like amending the Bible and will they turn out to vote against it out of principle.
- Proposition 19 proposes to allow residential property owners over the age of 55 to take a portion of their Prop 13 property tax assessment levels with them to apply to a new, otherwise much more-heavily taxed residence. Anti-tax advocates, particularly those over that age will turn out to support that as it will have the effect of reducing taxes on one portion of the populace at least.

- Proposition 21 proposes to allow cities to introduce new rent controls or expand on existing ones. Rent control is anathema to landlords and others who have profited from sky high rents. These comprise many advocates of the free market who see taxes as fundamentally opposed to their world view, especially if they will be paying, but not benefitting from, them.

In light of these three ballot measures, the anti-tax advocates will be putting a great deal of effort to get out the vote in this election to see that the outcomes further their political and economic interests. Given the increasing complexity of our California ballots, voters depend more heavily on the entities that adhere to a world view similar to theirs to provide direction to their voting. Taxes will take a prominent position in this California election season, and it doesn't appear at this point that proposing any measure that can be interpreted as pro-tax is a good idea, particularly if it requires a super majority to achieve success.

In summary, no matter how thoughtful and inclusive a measure it winds up to be, it will face some stiff headwinds to gain passage. Two alternatives to consider would be to postpone the measure to another post-crisis election season or to add in a sunset provision. I understand the reasons behind eliminating the 15-year sunset provision to enable backing 30-year bonds, so one possibility would be to add in a 30-year sunset and be very clear about the fact that, although that is a long term in the future, it does provide some accountability and will enable projects that address critical current issues to be completed well within that time span.

Thank you for considering my comments and I will be interested in the outcome of this process.

Jerry Hearn