

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE A-16

The proponents of Measure A-16 want to tax us to fund a new level of government bureaucracy which will **DUPLICATE, AT GREAT EXPENSE**, already existing County government services. The San Luis Obispo County Flood Control District already has the ability to manage the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, at less cost. The proposed tax would fund overhead, offices, and salaries for a new branch of government to the tune of almost \$1 million per year, without adding one drop of water to the basin. It includes over a quarter of a million a year to cover the salaries for two people! The rates at which this tax was calculated are highly inflated and go far beyond what should be necessary to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). And this is just the tip of the iceberg—“extraction fees” will likely be charged for every drop of water you pump and additional taxes will need to be imposed for any actual groundwater projects in the future.

Demand accountability from your government and stop the out-of-control taxation! This tax does nothing for the basin, and instead funds **MORE GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY AND WASTE**. It will not bring a single drop of water to the basin. Even more unfairly, only certain vulnerable rural residents, farmers, and ranchers of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin will be forced to pay this unnecessary tax—it does not apply to the whole basin. City populations, urban developers, and municipal appropriators will not be affected by this tax.

The proposed tax is a poster child for what is wrong with out-of-control government spending and lack of accountability for the money they already have. Vote **NO** new taxes! And **NO** new regulation!

VOTE NO ON MEASURE A-16!

Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure A-16

Measure A is a Tax and Spend Measure! Voting for Measure A will guarantee a brand new bloated bureaucratic government agency to tax you, have the authority to put a meter on your well and charge you “extraction fees” for every drop of water you pump.

Don't fall for the false promise of local control! This proposed district only covers a portion of the basin. California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires the **ENTIRE** basin be managed under a single Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). A Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) must be formed between Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties, the City of Paso Robles and several other agencies to ultimately manage the basin. The new water district **MUST** concede local regulatory power to the JPA. All the water district will do for the residents is to tax them to fund new offices, bloated employee salaries with benefits and expensive retirements to the tune of almost \$1 million per year, without adding one single drop of water to the basin.

The State will not step in to manage the basin! Section 10724 of California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act “presumes” that all counties will act as the GSA for any unmanaged area of their county. San Luis Obispo County already aggressively manages the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin. Take the permanent water offset ordinance as an example. It strains credulity that the County would passively stand by and let the State step in and take over our water.

VOTE NO ON MEASURE A-16.

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE B-16

Don't be fooled by false promises of local control! If you vote for Measure B-16 all you will get is more taxes, more government bureaucracy, more regulation, and you will lose control of your well.

Forming a Paso Robles Basin Water District will not give local control over the basin to the citizens. Because the proposed district does not cover the entire basin, it does not have the authority to satisfy the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requirement to be the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the basin. A Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) must be still formed with the counties of Monterey and SLO, and the cities like Paso Robles. The new district would have only one seat on the JPA, but would cost taxpayers almost \$1 million per year! If you vote for this measure **YOU WILL BE UNNECESSARILY TAXED, HAVE YOUR WATER RIGHTS RESTRICTED, AND GET NOTHING IN RETURN.**

The proposed district would have the authority to put a meter on your well, charge you for every drop of water you pump, and enter your property for regulatory purposes.

In addition, the County will give up none of its regulatory powers, but will shift millions of dollars of its bureaucratic overhead costs onto the residents of the district. The water district is not needed. The County Flood Control District already has the authority to manage the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, along with the other 21 groundwater basins in the County, and at less cost.

The proposed water district is a poster child for what is wrong with out-of-control government spending and interference. Vote **NO** new taxes! **NO** new regulation and **NO** water district!

VOTE NO ON MEASURE B-16!

Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure B-16

Measure B does not give residents local control! California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires the ENTIRE basin be managed. To accomplish this, a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) must be formed between Monterey, San Luis Obispo counties, the City of Paso Robles and several additional agencies. This new water district would have ONE seat on that several member JPA and any member could stop the water district if they disagree with any of the district's actions.

The State will not impose a tax on the district! California has no authority to unilaterally impose a special local tax. California Constitution Subdivision (d) Section 1 Article XIII C requires all special taxes be approved by a 2/3 vote.

The State will not step in to manage the district! The SLO County Flood Control District already aggressively manages our basin. Section 10724 of SGMA grants the County full authority to continue to manage the basin. In fact, SGMA "presumes" that counties will expressly act as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for any unmanaged areas in the county.

Measure B is not fair! District residents will be taxed almost \$1 million per year. City residents, urban developers and municipal appropriators over the same basin, extracting the same groundwater, will not be charged this tax.

If you vote for measure B-16, the new water district will have the authority to put a meter on your well, tax you for your own water and enter your property unannounced for regulatory purposes.

Vote NO on Measure B-16.