

**COUNTY SERVICE AREA #14 – HOMESTEAD VALLEY
MEASURE A**

A MEASURE A: To maintain open space, reduce wildland fire hazards, maintain and improve trails and parks, and to renovate and update the Community Center to make it safe and accessible to all within County Service Area #14 – Homestead Valley – shall a special tax in the amount of \$125 per year per improved parcel with an annual inflation increase of 2 percent, be levied commencing in fiscal year 2009/2010?	YES
	NO

**FULL TEXT OF MEASURE A
RESOLUTION NO. 2009-36
RESOLUTION OF THE MARIN COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RESOLUTION FOR OPEN SPACE MAINTENANCE,
COMMUNITY CENTER IMPROVEMENTS, AND WILDLAND
FIRE PREVENTION FUNDING FOR COUNTY SERVICE
AREA #14 (HOMESTEAD VALLEY), INCLUDING NOTICE,
HEARING, AND ELECTION**

WHEREAS, County Service Area #14 is a service area in the unincorporated territory of the County of Marin, known generally as Homestead Valley; and

WHEREAS, the County currently receives approximately \$115,000 in annual revenue from County Service Area #14 in ad valorem property tax revenue to cover annual operating expenses for the Homestead Valley Community Center and for trail and park maintenance, fire fuel reduction, routine daily management and oversight of over 90 acres of County of Marin open space and park land in County Service Area #14 – Homestead Valley; and

WHEREAS, the current annual revenue is insufficient to properly maintain and improve the aging Community Center facilities, and the Community Service Area Advisory Board has identified capital improvements necessary to the Community Center for the safety, maintenance, structural integrity and accessibility of the facility to insure continued operation; and

WHEREAS, the current annual revenue is insufficient to engage in necessary wildland fire hazard reduction projects, ongoing vegetation management, trail maintenance and trail improvements to open space areas and park improvements to Three Groves and Stolte Grove; and

WHEREAS, County Service Area #14 proposes an annual \$125 per parcel special tax with an annual inflation increase of 2 percent to fund these improvements, split approximately 60 percent for improvements to its Community Center and 40 percent for wildland fire hazard reduction projects, ongoing vegetation management, trail maintenance and trail improvements to open space areas and park improvements to Three Groves and Stolte Grove; and

WHEREAS, a hearing before the Board of Supervisors was conducted on May 5, 2009, and public comment was received.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the following:

The Marin County Board of Supervisors hereby calls for an election for Community Service Area #14 by mail ballot to be held on August 25, 2009 to establish a special tax for funding. Upon approval by two-thirds of the voters the special tax shall be levied on improved parcels beginning in fiscal year 2009/2010. An improved parcel is defined as a parcel that is single family residential-improved, attached single family residential-improved, multiple family residential-improved, or commercial-improved.

The wording of the ballot shall be as follows:

To maintain open space, reduce wildland fire hazards, maintain and improve trails and parks, and to renovate and update the Community Center to make it safe and accessible to all within County Service Area #14 – Homestead Valley – shall a special tax in the amount of \$125 per year per improved parcel with an annual inflation increase of 2 percent, be levied commencing in fiscal year 2009/2010?

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held on this 5th day of May, 2009, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS s/Susan L. Adams, s/ Steve Kinsey,
s/Charles McGlashan, s/Judy Arnold,
s/Harold C. Brown, Jr.

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

**COUNTY COUNSEL'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF
MEASURE A
MARIN COMMUNITY SERVICE AREA #14
HOMESTEAD VALLEY
SPECIAL TAX**

This Measure, if approved by two-thirds of those voting thereon, would authorize the collection of a special tax for the purposes of maintaining open space, reducing wildland fire hazards, maintaining and improving trails and parks, and renovating and updating the Community Center, in the amount of \$125 on improved parcels within the County Service Area #14, with two percent (2%) increases per year.

s/PATRICK K. FAULKNER
County Counsel

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE A

The residents of Homestead Valley can claim two wonderful and unique benefits. The Homestead Valley Community Association (HVCA), which provides facilities and programs for its residents, and the Homestead Valley Land Trust (HVLTL), which stewards our beautiful open spaces and parks. Proceeds from this parcel assessment would continue to maintain these valued benefits.

The main priorities of the proposed \$125 annual assessment are safety (fire safety and safety of our facilities), accessibility, and maintenance of the open spaces and parks. With roughly 1000 parcels, the assessment would equate to approximately \$125,000 annually, to be shared between HVCA and HVLTL.

Proceeds would be used by HVLTL to further mitigate fire danger in the 90 acres of open space throughout Homestead Valley, an effort which is severely limited under current funding. Proceeds would assist HVLTL, in consultation with the Southern Marin Fire Department, in establishing critical fire fuel breaks and ladder fuel reductions.

Proceeds would be used by HVCA to make necessary physical improvements to the aging community center, directly affecting safety, accessibility and proper maintenance of the center. Planned improvements include more meeting space, new stairs, and kitchen upgrades.

The spirit of Homestead has survived multiple generations and economic and social changes, and dating back nearly 30 years the community has sponsored various self-sustaining capital raising events like this proposed assessment.

Truly, the final decision lies in your hands, the residents of Homestead Valley. We hope you agree this assessment can help sustain our beloved Homestead Valley.

HOMESTEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION,
by Al Wuthnow, President of the Board
s/AL WUTHNOW

President of the Board
HOMESTEAD VALLEY LAND TRUST,
by Philip Moyer, President of the Board
s/PHILIP MOYER
President of the Board

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE A WAS SUBMITTED.