COUNTY OF MARIN
Voter Information Pamphlet and Sample Ballot
SPECIAL VOTE BY MAIL ELECTION
Tuesday, August 27, 2013

Attention Voters:
There will be no polling places for this election.

- Your ballot and voting instructions are enclosed.
- We cannot count your ballot unless we receive it by 8 p.m. Election Day.
- Return your ballot by mail at least 5 business days before the election, or deliver it to the Elections Office.
- You can vote in person at the Elections Office beginning on July 29, 2013.

Marin County Elections Office
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 121
San Rafael, CA 94903
Open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays
And 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day
415-473-6456    TTY 415-473-6899
www.marinvotes.org
When will I get my vote-by-mail ballot?
Your ballot goes in the mail starting 29 days before the election. If you do not receive your ballot around that time, call us. We will send you a replacement ballot. If there is not enough time to mail it, you can pick one up at our office.

How can I vote before Election Day?
You can vote at the Elections Office beginning 29 days before the election.

If I am traveling, can I get my vote-by-mail ballot at a different address?
Yes. Contact us and give us your temporary out-of-town address. Or if you prefer, you can vote early at the Elections Office starting 29 days before the election.

Will the Post Office forward my vote-by-mail ballot to my new address?
No! Vote-by-mail ballots cannot be forwarded. Update your registration at www.registertovote.ca.gov or fill out a new voter registration form with your updated information. It must be postmarked no later than 15 days before the election.

What if I lose my ballot?
Call us. If it is too late to mail you a replacement ballot, you may pick one up at the Elections Office.

What if I make a mistake on my ballot?
Contact our office to ask for a replacement ballot.

How do I turn in my vote-by-mail ballot?
You must return your ballot in the envelope provided. You can:
• Mail your ballot, or
• Drop it off at the Elections Office.

Deadline: Your ballot must be at the Elections Office by 8 p.m. election night – no exceptions!

What if I forgot to sign my return envelope?
Your ballot will not be counted. But if we receive your unsigned ballot envelope at least 2 weeks before the election, we will try to contact you.

Can I check to see if you have received my vote-by-mail ballot?
Yes. Call: (415) 473-6456 or go to our website www.marinvotes.org.

If the Elections Office receives your vote-by-mail ballot before Election Day, it will be counted by 8 p.m. on Election Day. If you drop off your vote-by-mail ballot on Election Day, it will be counted after Election Day.

Marin County Elections Office
Open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays, and from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day
3501 Civic Center Dr., Rm. 121, San Rafael, CA 94903
Tel. 415-473-6456   TTY 415-473-6899   ★ www.marinvotes.org
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: use a ball point pen with black ink.

- To vote on a measure, completely blacken the oval to the left of YES or NO, like this ☐.
- If you make a mistake or damage your ballot, call the Elections Office at 415-473-6456 for instructions.
- Marking the ballot outside of the oval to vote for a measure may compromise the secrecy of the ballot.

MEASURES SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS

STRAWBERRY RECREATION DISTRICT-ZONE IV

MEASURE A
Shall the Zone IV portion of the Strawberry Recreation District incur bonded indebtedness of not to exceed $500,000 to finance the acquisition, construction and completion of certain recreational improvements, structures and facilities comprising the dredging, redredging, widening and opening of navigable channels, to provide a safe, adequate and useful recreational small boat channel and lands and easement necessary therefore, for the benefit of said Zone IV and of its inhabitants?

☐ BONDS YES ☐ BONDS NO

STRAWBERRY RECREATION DISTRICT-ZONE IV

MEASURE B
To fund dredging, redredging, widening and opening of navigable channels, including administrative expenses, shall Strawberry Recreation District levy the following special tax, which can be increased annually by the greater of 3.5% or the US Department of Labor, PPI - Diesel Fuel (Series ID:PUC324110324110AY2), and shall the District’s appropriations limit be increased by the amount of this voter-approved tax: per improved parcel, $2,000 annually, then beginning 2020, $4000 annually and, per unimproved parcel, $1.00 annually?

☐ YES ☐ NO

END OF BALLOT
The following pages contain

BALLOT MEASURE INFORMATION

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF OR IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED LAWS ARE THE OPINIONS OF THE AUTHORS.

Visit our website at: www.marinvotes.org

If you have questions about voting procedures call 415-473-6456.
COUNTY COUNSEL’S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE A

If this measure is approved by a two-thirds vote, the Strawberry Recreation District, Zone IV portion, shall be authorized to incur bonded indebtedness of not to exceed $500,000 to finance the acquisition, construction and completion of certain recreational improvements, structures and facilities comprising the dredging, redredging, widening and opening of navigable channels, to provide a safe, adequate and useful recreational small boat channel and lands and easement necessary therefore, for the benefit of said Zone IV and of its inhabitants?

BONDS YES       BONDS NO

s/STEVEN M. WOODSIDE
Interim County Counsel

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE A

Our channel has silted in. Boat transit is already impeded or prevented on mid and low tides, necessitating a full channel dredging in 2014, the first since 2006. Dredging will improve both channel use and flushing action, providing improved water quality in and around our channel. However, the remaining $700,000 from our 2004 bond and the pre-authorized $300,000 (to be issued concurrently with this bond) are insufficient to fund a full dredging in 2014. We need an additional $500,000.

What does this cost you? Bond assessments are distributed based upon the assessed value of your home. You should expect an approximate increase of 15% in your Zone IV bond tax that appears on your property tax bill through 2019. In 2020 your bond tax will decrease by approximately 55% as the previously issued 2004 bond is retired. All bonds including Measure A are retired in 2030.

We anticipate that the Cove Apartments will pay for one half the dredging costs from Strawberry Shores to the Sausalito Channel, as well as all of their own area north from Harbor Cove Way, as they have done in prior dredging episodes. This reduces costs for Zone IV homeowners.

It is important that we dredge in a timely manner so that we don’t lose our ability to obtain the required permits. We are not only protecting our water recreation; we are protecting our property values as well. Recent sales statistics indicate that Strawberry waterfront properties sell for almost twice as much per square foot as non-waterfront properties. These values assume a navigable channel.

This measure funds the 2014 dredging. Measure B is designed to fund future dredging with no further elections or issuance of bonds.

Please join us in voting to protect our bay access and property values.

s/Tirrell B Graham
Chair, Zone IV Dredging Committee

s/Barbara Lee Wambach
Finance Chair, Zone IV Dredging Committee

s/Arthur Nichols Hoppe
Member, Zone IV Dredging Committee

s/Penny R Baldwin-Spear
Member, Zone IV Dredging Committee

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE A WAS SUBMITTED.
RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of the Strawberry Recreation District (the “District”), as follows:

WHEREAS, the Board is generally authorized to call elections within the District and to designate the specifications thereof, pursuant to sections 5790 and 5790.1 of the California Public Resources Code;

WHEREAS, the Board deems it necessary and advisable to submit a bond proposition to the electors that, if approved by the requisite supermajority of the votes cast, would permit the District to issue the bonds;

WHEREAS, it is desirable that the election to determine whether the bonds shall be issued and sold be consolidated within such other election or elections as may be held on the same day in the same territory or in territory that is in part the same;

WHEREAS, section 9400 et seq. of the California Elections Code requires that a tax rate statement be contained in all official materials, including any ballot pamphlet prepared, sponsored or distributed by the District, relating to the election; and

WHEREAS, the Board now desires to authorize the filing of a ballot argument in favor of the proposition to be submitted to the voters at the election;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STRAWBERRY RECREATION DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Call for Election. The Board hereby orders an election to be held within the boundaries of Zone IV of the District (“Zone IV”) and submits to the electors of Zone IV the question of whether general obligation bonds (the “Bonds”) of the District shall be authorized to be issued and sold in a principal amount not to exceed $500,000 for the purpose of financing the acquisition, construction and completion of certain recreational improvements, structures and facilities comprising the dredging, redredging, widening and opening of navigable channels, for the benefit of Zone IV and of its inhabitants (the “Project”), and to pay costs incident thereto, as set forth more fully in the ballot proposition approved pursuant to Section 3 of this Resolution. This Resolution constitutes the order of the District to call such election.
Section 7. Accountability Provisions. The Board hereby directs that a separate account shall be established for deposit of proceeds of the sale of the Bonds if the measure is approved by the Zone IV voters. For so long as any proceeds of Bonds remain unexpended, the chief financial officer of the District shall cause a report to be filed with the Board no later than five (5) months after the end of each fiscal year, commencing with the first fiscal year during which any proceeds of bonds authorized by this measure shall have been received. The report shall state (1) the amount of bond proceeds received and expended in such fiscal year and (2) the status of any projects funded or to be funded from the proceeds of bonds authorized to be issued by this measure. The report may be incorporated into or filed with the audit or other appropriate routine report provided to the Board. Audited financial statements of the District will continue to be made available in accordance with applicable requirements.

Section 8. County Officials to Call and Conduct Election. The Marin County Registrar of Voters is hereby requested to take all steps to call and hold the election in accordance with law and these specifications.

Section 9. Consolidation with Other Elections. Pursuant to Part 3 (commencing with section 10400) of Division 10 of the California Elections Code, the Board of Supervisors of Marin County is requested to order consolidation of the Zone IV bond election with such other election or elections as may be held on the same day in the same territory or in territory that is in part the same.

Section 10. Services of Registrar of Voters. Pursuant to section 10002 of the California Elections Code, the Board of Supervisors of Marin County is requested to permit the Registrar of Voters to render all services incident to the preparation for and holding of the election. The District requests that the Marin County Registrar of Voters take all steps necessary to hold the election by all-mail ballot pursuant to Division 4 (commencing with section 4000) of the California Elections Code. The District hereby agrees to reimburse Marin County for actual costs incurred by it for the District's election, as set forth in the current election cost allocation procedures of Marin County.

Section 11. Ballot Arguments. The members of the Board are hereby authorized, but not directed, to prepare and file with the Marin County Registrar of Voters a ballot argument in favor of the proposition within the time established by the Marin County Registrar of Voters.

Section 12. Consultants. The Board authorizes the Chairman, on behalf of the Board, to negotiate a contract with the firm of Quint & Thimmig LLP, San Francisco, California, to act as bond counsel in the matter pertaining to the election and issuance of bonds by the District. The Board authorizes the Chairman, on behalf of the Board, to negotiate a contract with the firm of Wulff Hansen & Co., San Francisco, California, to act as financial advisor in the matter pertaining to the election and issuance of bonds by the District.

Section 13. General Authorization with Respect to the Bond Election. The members of the Board and the other officers of the District are hereby authorized and directed, individually and collectively, to do any and all things and to execute, deliver, and perform any and all agreements and documents that they deem necessary or advisable in order to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution, including, without limitation, to prepare and submit for inclusion in the voter information pamphlet an argument in favor of passage of the ballot proposition. All actions heretofore taken by the officers and agents of the District that are in conformity with the purposes and intent of this Resolution are hereby ratified, confirmed, and approved in all respects.

Section 14. Delivery of this Resolution. The Secretary is hereby directed to file (or cause to be filed) a certified copy of this Resolution no later than 4:30 P.M. on May 31, 2013, with the Marin County Registrar of Voters and the Clerk of the Marin County Board of Supervisors.

Section 15. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

APPROVED, PASSED AND ADOPTED on May 8, 2013, by the following vote:

3 AYES: J. KLOPFER / J. FRANCIS / C. NICHOLS
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
2 ABSENT: P. TEESE / P. BOHNER

s/Jennifer Klopfer
Chair of the Board of Directors

FULL TEXT OF MEASURE A CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
EXHIBIT A

BALLOT MEASURE

Shall the Zone IV portion of the Strawberry Recreation District incur bonded indebtedness of not to exceed $500,000 to finance the acquisition, construction and completion of certain recreational improvements, structures and facilities comprising the dredging, redredging, widening and opening of navigable channels, to provide a safe, adequate and useful recreational small boat channel and lands and easement necessary therefore, for the benefit of said Zone IV and of its inhabitants?

EXHIBIT B

TAX RATE STATEMENT

An election will be held in the Strawberry Recreation District (the “District”) on August 27, 2013, to authorize the sale of not to exceed $500,000 in bonds of the District to finance the acquisition, construction and completion of certain recreational improvements, structures and facilities comprising the dredging, redredging, widening and opening of navigable channels, for the benefit of said Zone IV and of its inhabitants. If the bonds are approved, the District expects to sell the bonds in one series (but may issue the bonds in more than one series). Principal and interest on the bonds will be payable from the proceeds of tax levies made upon the taxable property in the District. The following information is provided in compliance with sections 9400-9404 of the California Elections Code:

1. The best estimate of the tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue during the first fiscal year after the sale of the bonds, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of filing this statement, is 1.5 cents per $100 ($14.86 per $100,000) of assessed valuation in fiscal year 2013-14.

2. The District’s best estimate of the average tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue over all of the years the bonds are expected to be outstanding is 5.8 cents per $100 ($57.57 per $100,000) of assessed valuation.

3. The best estimate of the highest tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of filing this statement, is 8.1 cents per $100 ($80.58 per $100,000) of assessed valuation in fiscal year 2023-24, decreasing each year thereafter.

Voters should note that the estimated tax rates are based on the assessed value of taxable property on the Marin County official tax rolls, not on the market value of property. Property owners should consult their own property tax bills to determine their property’s assessed value and any applicable tax exemptions.

Attention of all voters is directed to the fact that the foregoing information is based on the District’s projections and estimates only, which are not binding upon the District. The actual tax rates and the years in which they will apply may vary from those presently estimated, due to variations from these estimates in the timing of the sale of the bonds, the amount of bonds sold and market interest rates at the time of the sale, and actual assessed valuations over the term of repayment of the bonds.

The date of sale and the amount of bonds sold at any given time will be determined by the District based on the need for construction funds and other factors, including the legal limitations approved by a 2/3 vote. The actual interest rates at which the bonds will be sold will depend on the bond market at the time of the bond sale. Actual future assessed valuation will depend on the amount and value of taxable property within the District as determined by the Marin County Assessor in the annual assessment and the equalization process.

Dated: May 8, 2013

s/Jennifer Klopfer
Chair, Board of Directors
Strawberry Recreation District
COUNTY COUNSEL’S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE B

If this Measure is approved by a two-thirds vote, the Strawberry Recreation District shall levy the following special tax, which can be increased annually by the greater of 3.5% or the US Department of Labor, PPI – Diesel Fuel (Series ID:PUC324110324110AY2), and shall the District’s appropriations limit be increased by the amount of this voter-approved tax: per improved parcel, $2,000 annually, then beginning 2020, $4,000 annually and, per unimproved parcel, $1.00 annually?

YES  NO

s/STEVEN M. WOODSIDE
Interim County Counsel

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE B

The costs of bond issuance, interest and elections are substantial. We studied several financing options and developed a long-term plan that achieves the most cost effective ongoing channel maintenance.

We propose fully dredging every 10 years with light interim maintenance dredging. We propose moving away from costly bonds to a “special tax” that self-funds ongoing channel maintenance. This measure funds future dredging. It approves a $2K annual tax per homeowner that steps up to $4K in 2020 when the existing bond is retired.

What does this cost you?

• The “special tax” is $2K, per homeowner and, if approved, will appear on your fall, 2013 property tax bill.
• In 2020, your bond tax decreases by approximately 55%. The “special tax” increases to $4K per homeowner.
• There is an inflationary cap of the higher of 3.5% or “The U. S. Department of Labor Producer Price Index for Diesel Fuel”.
• In 2030 all bonds are retired. The “special tax” continues to self-fund ongoing channel maintenance.

Why does this make sense?

• Financing dredging costs through a “special tax”, instead of bonds, reduces costs by approximately 25% due to the issuance cost and interest levied on bonds. Waterfront communities, such as Larkspur, have similar financing and are pleased with the results.
• Self-funding through a “special tax” allows us to finance smaller maintenance dredging as needed.
• No further election or bond issuance will be needed, thus protecting our ability to finance future dredging.
• Waterfront homes on a navigable channel are worth approximately twice that of comparable non-waterfront homes. Also, if you dock a boat, you are likely saving more than $4K per year, based upon local dockage fees.

Please join us in voting to cost effectively protect our bay access and property values.

s/Tirrell B Graham
Chair, Zone IV Dredging Committee
s/Barbara Lee Wambach
Finance Chair, Zone IV Dredging Committee
s/Arthur Nichols Hoppe
Member, Zone IV Dredging Committee
s/Penny R Baldwin-Spear
Member, Zone IV Dredging Committee

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE B WAS SUBMITTED.
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STRAWBERRY RECREATION DISTRICT: CALLING FOR AN ELECTION TO IMPOSE A SPECIAL TAX UPON PARCELS LOCATED WITHIN ZONE IV TO SUPPORT CURRENT AND FUTURE DREDGING ACTIVITIES; ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR ELECTION; ADOPTING INTENDED BALLOT LANGUAGE; ORDERING THE CONSOLIDATION OF SAID ELECTION; AND REQUESTING ELECTION SERVICES BY THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

WHEREAS, this Board is the governing Board of Strawberry Recreation District; and

WHEREAS, the Strawberry Recreation District Board has the authority to levy a special tax pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 5789.1; and

WHEREAS, the Strawberry Recreation District Board determines that it is in the best interest of property owners within the Strawberry Recreation District Zone IV to place a levy on parcels within Zone IV to provide critical funding for the acquisition, construction and completion of recreational improvements, structures and facilities comprising the dredging, redredging, widening and opening of navigable channels, including associated administrative expenses, for the benefit of Zone IV and of its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of this Board that a Resolution imposing the special tax should be submitted to the voters of the Strawberry Recreation District who reside within Zone IV; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors conducted a public hearing on May 8, 2013.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the special tax is for the specific purpose of financing the acquisition, construction and completion of recreational improvements, structures and facilities comprising the dredging, redredging, widening and opening of navigable channels, including associated administrative expenses, for the benefit of Zone IV and of its inhabitants.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the proceeds for the special tax be applied only to the specific purposes stated above.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a "parcel" shall be defined as any parcel of land, developed or undeveloped, wholly or partially located within the Zone IV of the District, for which the County Assessor of Marin County has assigned an assessor’s identification number, provided, however, that any such parcels which are contiguous, used solely for owner-occupied single family residential purposes and held under identical ownership, may, upon approval of an application of the owners thereof to this Board, be treated as a single parcel for purposes of this special tax.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board hereby orders that said election shall be consolidated with the mail ballot election on August 27, 2013.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board hereby authorizes and requests the County Registrar of Voters to provide all necessary election services and canvass the results of said election. The cost of the election shall be borne by the Strawberry Recreation District.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Marin County Tax Collector shall collect the special tax annually in the same manner and subject to the same penalties as County property taxes are collected. The County shall be entitled to deduct its reasonable costs incurred collecting the special tax before such special tax is remitted to the Strawberry Recreation District.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the special tax shall be deemed established and shall be in effect beginning with the 2013-2014 fiscal year upon certification of the election results evidencing approval by at least two-thirds of the Zone IV registered voters voting thereon.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to Government Code Section 50077.5 and Code of Civil Procedure Section 860, any judicial action or proceeding to attack, review, set aside, or annul this special tax, if approved by the voters, shall be commenced within 60 days of the effective date of this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at the adjourned meeting of the Board of Directors of the Strawberry Recreation District held this 8 day of May, 2013 by the following vote:

3 AYES:  J. KLOPFER / J. FRANCIS / C. NICHOLS
NOES:
2 ABSENT:  P. TEESE / P. BOHNER
ABSTAIN:

s/Jennifer Klopfer, President
Board of Directors, Strawberry Recreation District
VOTING INSTRUCTIONS
FOR A MAIL BALLOT ELECTION

TO CAST A VOTE FOR A MEASURE

Completely blacken the oval that appears next to the word “YES” or “NO”.

EXAMPLE

MEASURE XXX

Shall the …

● YES  ○ NO

TO VOTE

● Use only a pen with black ink.
● Blacken the oval completely.
● If you make a mistake, call the Elections Office for instructions: 415-473-6456.

TO CAST YOUR BALLOT

● When you finish marking your ballot, put it in the postage paid return envelope and sign the envelope.

TO RETURN YOUR BALLOT

● Ballot must be received by the Elections Office by August 27, 2013, 8:00 pm
● Mail it at least 5 business days before Election Day, or
● Deliver it to the Marin County Elections Office,

  3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 121, San Rafael
  Weekdays: Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
  Election Day: Tuesday, 7 am to 8 pm