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, $4000 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.

MEASURE B CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
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 be applied only to the specific purposes stated above.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the special tax shall be submitted to the voters within the Strawberry Recreation District Zone IV in an election to be consolidated with the mail ballot election on August 27, 2013. The question to be submitted to the voters shall read substantially as follows:

STRAWBERRY RECREATION DISTRICT, ZONE IV SPECIAL TAX MEASURE FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE DREDGING ACTIVITIES

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: PCU324110324110AY2), 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?