MEASURE B: To enhance local farmers’ contributions to our economy and provide Marin residents access to healthy, locally-grown food, shall Marin County: permit the Agricultural Institute of Marin to create a permanent home for the Farmer’s Market at Marin Civic Center including a market canopy designed to respect Frank Lloyd Wright’s building, accessible to pedestrians, bikes and public transit; and an eco-friendly indoor market building not to exceed 30,000 square feet at no cost to Marin taxpayers?

YES

NO

COUNTY COUNSEL’S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE B
FARMERS’ MARKET BUILDING AND MARKET CANOPY
This Measure was placed on the ballot by the Marin County Board of Supervisors.
If this Measure is approved by a majority vote, Resolution No. 2014-16 of the Board of Supervisors of Marin County allowing the Agricultural Institute of Marin to create a permanent home for the Farmer’s Market with a Farmer’s market building, including a market canopy, at the vacant “Christmas tree lot” on the Civic Center campus to enhance local farmers’ contributions to our economy and provide Marin Residents access to healthy, locally-grown food, shall be confirmed.

s/STEVEN M. WOODSIDE
County Counsel

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE B

The Civic Center Farmer’s Market is a treasure for Marin. For over 30 years, it has provided a market for our farmers, jobs for hundreds of people and a place for thousands of Marin residents to shop for local farm fresh foods – helping launch the “farm to table” movement.

A Yes vote on Measure B would allow for the first step toward creating a permanent home for the Farmer’s Market at the Marin Civic Center – at no cost to the public. A permanent home for the Farmer’s Market will help maintain the economic viability of local Marin farmers. It will be pedestrian, bike and public transit friendly. A small business incubator will create sustainable jobs for the future.

In 1992, Marin voters passed a measure requiring a vote of the people for any changes to the Marin Civic Center site. Yes on B will give permission to the Agricultural Institute of Marin (AIM), the non-profit that runs the Civic Center Farmer’s Market, to negotiate with Marin County to create a permanent home at Civic Center.

AIM’s plans include a market canopy to cover the Farmer’s Marker and an eco-friendly Market Hall and Plaza that will serve as a community hub where local farmers, ranchers, specialty food purveyors, artisans, agricultural organizations and the public will come together under one roof. AIM is consulting with the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy to make sure its designs respect and pay homage to the character of the architect’s historic building.

And taxpayers will not pay one penny of the cost of building the canopy and an eco-friendly Market Hall – AIM will raise 100% of that money from private sources.

Please join us in voting Yes on Measure B so that the Marin Farmer’s Market can take root for the next 30 years at the Civic Center.

s/JARED HUFFMAN
  Member of Congress, CD-2
s/STEVE KINSEY
  Marin County Board of Supervisors
s/LYNN GIACOMINI STRAY
  Point Reyes Farmstead Cheese Co.
s/PHYLLIS FABER
  Co-Founder of Marin Agricultural Land Trust, Wetland Biologist
s/RICK LAFRANCHI
  Lafranchi Ranch

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE B WAS SUBMITTED.
WHEREAS, on July 24, 2012, Board entered into a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation Agreement ("MOU") with the Agricultural Institute of Marin ("AIM"), which memorialized the discussions between the parties regarding the potential future improvements to part of the Christmas Tree lot and other related Civic Center campus improvements; and

WHEREAS, the MOU with AIM represents the ongoing support of our County’s agricultural heritage, a targeted industry in Marin County, and continues our relationship with AIM and the Civic Center farmers’ market; and

WHEREAS, the parties agree that the future market area would be designed consistent with the Marin County Civic Center Campus Master Design Guidelines and would take into account the fact that the County is planning improvements to Civic Center Drive; and

WHEREAS, the MOU is an example of the use of public-private partnerships to help enhance our public facilities for the benefit of our residents; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the proposed improvements is to allow AIM and the County to expand public education about the health, economic, social and environmental benefits of locally grown food, and to enhance public access to healthy local food by increasing the quality and effectiveness of the existing farmers’ market and its related public benefit programs; and

WHEREAS, the vision of AIM is to construct a building and covered market canopy which would house many of the agricultural related programs and services currently provided only during market days, and would co-locate the market site with ongoing AIM programmatic and administrative facilities;

WHEREAS, in November 1992, the voters of Marin County approved a County ordinance known as “The Marin Civic Center Open Space Measure” which requires approval by a majority vote of the County of Marin electorates prior to construction of any buildings or like structures on any part of the grounds of the Marin County Civic Center where AIM desires to construct a building and covered market canopy; and

WHEREAS, since approval of the MOU, County and AIM staff have had extensive discussions which purpose has been to document the conditions under which the County would place a measure on the ballot to allow for construction of AIM’s improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following ballot measure shall be submitted to the registered voters in the primary Election on June 3, 2014. The question submitted to the voters shall read substantially as follows:

To enhance local farmers’ contributions to our economy and provide Marin residents access to healthy, locally-grown food, shall Marin County: permit the Agricultural Institute of Marin to create a permanent home for the Farmer’s Market at Marin Civic Center including a market canopy designed to respect Frank Lloyd Wright’s building, accessible to pedestrians, bikes and public transit; and an eco-friendly indoor market building not to exceed 30,000 square feet at no cost to Marin taxpayers?

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held on this 25th day of February, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS Judy Arnold, Susan L. Adams, Steve Kinsey, Katie Rice, Kathrin Sears

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

s/KATHRIN SEARS

President, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
s/M. S. HYMEL
Clerk