

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

October 7, 2014

Matthew H. Hymel
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Honorable Board of Supervisors
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Re: **Consider Board Positions Regarding Propositions 1, 46 and 48 on the November 4, 2014 Statewide Ballot**

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt resolutions concerning Propositions 1, 46 and 48 appearing on the November 4, 2014 ballot.

BACKGROUND: There are six propositions on the November 4, 2014 statewide ballot. Following direction from your Board at your meeting of September 30, 2014, we return to your Board at this time with proposed resolutions indicating your Board's position on three of these six measures.

Additional background information can be found in Attachment A, a Quick-Reference Guide prepared by the California Secretary of State. Specific ballot language and other details regarding all of the statewide ballot initiatives are available on the Secretary of State's website at: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/qualified-ballot-measures.htm>

Proposition 1: the "Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014"

Proposition 1 would authorize \$7.545 billion in general obligation bonds for state water supply infrastructure projects, including surface and groundwater storage, ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration, and drinking water protection. The bond funding would be available to state agencies for various projects and programs, as well as for loans and grants to local governments, private water companies, mutual water companies, Indian tribes, and nonprofit organizations.

Following up on a specific question last week, Proposition 1 does include funding aimed at achieving sustainable groundwater management across the state, including promotion of groundwater recharge and water reuse, groundwater storage projects and groundwater contamination prevention.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that your Board approve the attached resolution indicating your Board's SUPPORT of the "Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014" on November 4th.

Proposition 46: the "Medical Malpractice Lawsuits Cap and Drug Testing of Doctors Initiative"

This measure would allow the cap on medical malpractice damages, such as pain and suffering, to increase from \$250,000 to \$1.1 million - and would be adjusted

annually for future inflation. Health care providers would be required to check a statewide prescription drug database before prescribing or dispensing certain drugs to a patient for the first time. Hospitals would be required to test certain physicians for alcohol and drugs.

CSAC finds that the measure 'has the potential to significantly increase county costs due to our unique role as operators of hospitals and clinics, providers of health care, and employers who purchase health care insurance for both county employees and retirees.'

Recommendation:

It is recommended that your Board approve the attached resolution indicating your Board's OPPOSITION to the "Medical Malpractice Lawsuits Cap and Drug Testing of Doctors Initiative" on November 4th.

Proposition 48: the "Referendum on Indian Gaming Compacts"

This measure would ratify two gaming compacts between California and, respectively, the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians, and the Wiyot Tribe. It also omits certain projects related to executing the compacts, or amendments to the compacts, from the scope of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Opponents argue that the measure breaks the promise that Indian casinos would be on original tribal land, and authorizes a massive off-reservation casino bringing more crime and pollution to the Central Valley without any new money to the State general fund or for schools. Because ratification may advance the interests of "reservation shopping" elsewhere in California, your Board last week expressed direction to return with a resolution opposing the measure.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that your Board adopt the attached resolution indicating your Board's OPPOSITION to the "Referendum on Indian Gaming Compacts" on November 4th.

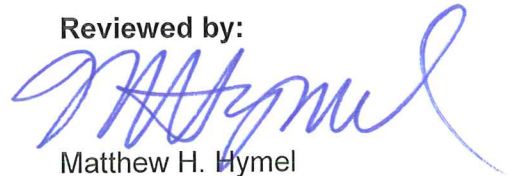
Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions or concerns regarding any of the above ballot measures.

Submitted by:



Daniel Eilerman
Deputy County Administrator

Reviewed by:



Matthew H. Hymel
County Administrator

Attachment A: Quick-Reference Guide, California Secretary of State
Recommended Resolutions