

Argument Against Measure T

Voting on a thirty-year tax is a solemn occasion. The agenda packet and minutes of the BCRPD Board of Directors July meeting show they accepted a draft resolution including Exhibit C, a notice of public hearing on a parcel tax "not to exceed \$25" at their next meeting. That notice duly posted outside the BCRPD office estimated the tax would raise \$166,000 per year totalling \$4.9 million.

Contrary to the notice, the action taken at their August meeting was this \$36 tax with an annual increase of up to 3%, which might ultimately reach \$85. It could raise \$239,000 initially and total \$11.4 million. From \$25 to \$36 is a 44% increase and the escalator clause adds another 60%, a compound increase of 130% over the noticed amount.

BCRPD already receives its share, about \$240,000, of the basic property tax we pay to local governments, which changes annually. Measure T would roughly double those dollars. What agency doubles its tax revenue in one year?

BCRPD's resolution still mentions Exhibit C, but they are ashamed and left it off their filing with the elections department. Since they didn't honor their July posted notice in August, how can we trust them in reviewing each annual increase? We can only expect automatic increases. They want us to vote once and have our taxes escalate for thirty years.

If Measure T's escalator clause succeeds, every district will do likewise. Let's stop this now so parcel taxes don't grow exponentially. Districts should face voters whenever they raise taxes.

We should expect transparency and prudent stewardship from our elected leaders, who cynically say one thing and do another. Let's reject this hasty money grab with its phony notice. Let's insist they bring a modest proposal in an honest way. Please vote No on T.

Bruce Holloway

Boulder Creek homeowner

Karen Brown

Boulder Creek homeowner