

## **ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE B**

VOTE NO on Measure B because:

Measure B is NEEDLESS! City Hall (Council and Management) are always free, without voters' endorsement, to adopt any budgetary precautions, including 'rainy-day' provisions.

Measure B is IMPOTENT! In order to support 'general services' and 'balance the budget' in 'bad' years, Measure B would set aside 1% of possible 'new' revenues in good years. Sounds cool, but the limited scope and vague language impose no firm legal guarantees for support of services or for meaningful budgetary 'balance':

- From City Hall's projections, from all ten years' set-asides the proposed new tax would at best yield under \$4 million total – scant support for all 'general services' in just one really bad year.

- With or without Measure B, it's easy to cook a budget to look 'balanced' (or not): just 'project' future revenue amounts that will (or won't) cover your expenses. But a 'balanced' budget need not be a wise one. Someone's budget may be 'balanced' even if half their income goes for street-drugs. City Hall's 'balanced budgets' cut public safety and infrastructure, and give away public funds and land for needless projects – like a new city-offices tower - to benefit selected consultants and developers.

Measure B is MISDIRECTED! City Hall's bigger budgeting problem is disregard of rational procedures for enabling not just a status quo but potentially more effective targeting of spending. Despite current info-tech, City Hall's recent-years' budget materials provide ever less crucial data on unit-costs of various services - for instance, per-hour cost to keep a library open or per-block cost to sweep a street. Absent unit-cost data, City Hall (and citizens) cannot readily propose alternatives or make wiser budget choices.

Tell City hall: we need rational budgeting, not farcical ballot measures!

Vote NO on Measure B!

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