

## ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE V

### Reasons to Vote No on Measure V

Everybody values open space, and it's hard to argue against a measure that purports to protect open space. But, contrary to what some are saying, there is no assault on San Clemente's thousands of acres of designated open space. In fact, there are **no** applications pending to development even a single acre of designated open space. Not one. So the real threat is not to open space, but to our representative form of democracy.

We elect individuals to serve on the City Council, whom we expect to become informed on many issues relating to our City's finances, land planning documents, transportation and infrastructure needs, etc., and we expect them to evaluate project proposals carefully after thoroughly reviewing the factual details concerning a project's merits. Is it a perfect method? No. Is there a remedy when a large number of residents feel a wrong decision has been made? Yes—it's called a referendum, and San Clemente residents know how to put an item up for a vote via referendum.

But do we want **all** items to automatically go to a community-wide vote? Ask yourself, how carefully did you examine the issues relating to our two most recent referenda, Measure C and Measure I? The City Council spent tens if not hundreds of hours on the ordinances that were subsequently placed on the ballot. What did the average voter spend "analyzing" the merits of these measures? One hour? Half an hour? Ten minutes? Less?

Keep our current system of representative democracy, with the initiative and referendum available in extreme cases. Let's not start down the road to "mob-ocracy," where every matter is automatically put to a vote where factions oversimplify complex issues into campaign slogans.

Vote No on Measure V.

s/ Larry P. "Duffy" Brook  
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