

REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE CC

THE LAGUNA BEACH OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION AND PRESERVATION PARCEL TAX MEASURE

The Taxpayers Association raises questions clearly addressed by Measure CC. Visit lagunaopenspace.com to read the initiative for yourself and review the Frequently Asked Questions section.

For 25 years, Laguna relied on State conservation funds to acquire open space when it made sense. The Taxpayers say this is a good thing. We agree.

State conservation funds, now largely depleted, were available only because voters, and Laguna voters overwhelmingly, supported the idea of setting aside dollars for open space. Such funds were accessed when land purchases of lasting value for the public materialized. That's how Measure CC would work.

The difference under Measure CC is that our tax dollars won't go to Sacramento, they'll stay here. We'll see our tax dollars at work, maintaining the character of our community.

The Taxpayers say Measure CC fails to meet conditions that would warrant their support: (1) an emergency or (2) a special opportunity. They offer the 2005 Bluebird Canyon landslide and The Irvine Company's plans to develop Laguna Canyon as more compelling situations.

Yet the Taxpayers opposed the Save the Canyon bond, Measure H. Had voters listened to the Taxpayers then, there would be 3,500 homes in the Canyon. The Taxpayers did not support the temporary sales tax to pay for the Bluebird landslide repairs—and failed to suggest any alternative.

We support Measure CC because it is a special opportunity. A modest, short-term investment now will preserve a crucial part of what makes Laguna Beach so special.

s/ Neil Fitzpatrick
Former Laguna Beach Mayor

s/ John B. Thomas
Real Estate Consultant

s/ Sam Goldstein
Laguna Live Co-Founder and Downtown Laguna Businessman

s/ Michael Ray
North Laguna Resident, Developer, and
Great Park Conservancy Board Member

s/ Mark Christy
Lifelong Laguna Resident