

ANALYSIS, ARGUMENTS AND REBUTTALS CONCERNING MEASURE H

To Be Submitted To The Voters Of Santa Clara County At The
Special Santa Clara Valley Water District

REVENUE BOND ELECTION

Tuesday, May 31, 1977

Arguments In Support Or Opposition Of The Proposed Laws
Are The Opinions Of The Authors

ARGUMENT FOR MEASURE H

Revenue Bonds will provide for a sufficient and efficient water supply system for Santa Clara County to meet our residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial needs. Under previous bond issues the Water District built dams, percolation ponds, freshwater treatment plants, and distribution systems. These have provided low cost, good quality water to maintain our desirable way of life and combat drought.

These Revenue Bonds will be paid by the water users—property taxes will NOT and can NOT be used.

Along with a program of reservoirs and personal conservation, importation and recycling, an improved distribution system must be built. This will prevent a recurrence of ground sinking caused by pumping more water out of the ground than is put back. Before water was imported in 1965 from the State Water Project, some areas of our valley floor dropped as much as 13 feet. The state water temporarily halted this sinking in 1969. Funds provided by this Revenue Bond Issue will enable the District to fully utilize the Federal San Felipe Importation Facilities and prevent the return of ground sinking. To minimize costs to County residents, full use also will be made of available Federal grants.

A sound water supply system provides many other benefits. Employment and our healthy economy depend upon it. Agriculture uses large volumes of water, and for farming to continue in this County a sufficient supply must be available. The passage of this Revenue Bond Issue also means that water levels can be better maintained in our reservoirs for boating, fishing, skiing and swimming. These Revenue Bonds will NOT increase our taxes.

VOTE YES ON WATER FOR OUR FUTURE.

Jose D. Villa
Executive Director
Mexican American Community Services Agency, Inc.

Audrey H. Fisher
Chairman, Santa Clara Valley Water Commission
Council Member, City of Los Altos

Courtland Rush
Chairman, Board of Directors
Santa Clara Valley Water District

U. E. Withrow Jr.
Executive Secretary
Building Trades Council

Howard W. Campen
Chairman, Citizens for Water

The undersigned authors of the primary argument in favor of ballot Proposition H at the Special Revenue Bond Election for the Santa Clara Valley Water District to be held on May 31, 1977, hereby state that such argument is true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Jose D. Villa
Executive Director
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REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT FOR MEASURE H

A yes vote on this measure will not guarantee water for our future. The San Felipe Project is currently under federal injunction and may never be built, and even if it is, drought may keep it from carrying water.

The measure does not specify how the bond money is to be spent, but in effect gives the Board of Directors of the District a blank check to spend it as they please, whether or not San Felipe is ever built.

The one thing that is guaranteed is high cost. We estimate the total cost of San Felipe and its distribution facilities at \$300 million, but when this amount is repaid over time the amortization costs will exceed a billion dollars.

The proponents brush these costs off by saying that they will be paid not by taxpayers but by "water users." The problem with this is that as taxpayers we also use water, and an increase in water bills takes the same money out of our pockets as a tax increase! (In fact the effect is worse, because water bills are not deductible, and in San Jose an increased water bill means an increased utility tax.)

In summary, a NO vote on this measure will (1) save South County agriculture, (2) reclaim precious water resources, (3) avoid another wasteful government project, and (4) save you and your children a billion dollars in higher water bills.

SAVE WATER AND MONEY—VOTE NO!

Walter V. Hays
San Jose City Councilman 1969-73
Terry A. Trumbull
Santa Clara County Planning Commissioner
Joseph H. Donohue
Former President, United Taxpayers
John A. Brigham, Jr.
Saratoga City Councilman
Bruce Tichinin
Member, Santa Clara County
Tax Assessment Appeals Board 1973-76

The undersigned authors of the rebuttal argument against the Santa Clara Valley Water District bond measure at the special election for the District to be held on May 31, 1977, hereby state that such argument is true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Walter V. Hays
San Jose City Councilman 1969-73
Terry A. Trumbull
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ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE H

This measure deals with two vital issues: water and money.

The money involved is much more than the proposed \$56 million in bonds, which will be used only to distribute water from the San Felipe Water Importation Project. To obtain that water we must reimburse the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation for virtually the whole Project, nearly \$250 million. State law prohibits adding this amount to the property tax, but the District adds it to our water bills. The two together come to over \$300 million, more than ten times the cost of the proposed sports arena that County voters so soundly rejected a few years ago.

Do we need the water badly enough to pay \$300 million for it? The answer is no. The District's own reports show that with moderate water conservation (the cheapest source of additional water), non-San Felipe sources can provide all the water needs for our present population, as well as reasonable growth in North County. The only issue is the extent of future development in South County.

Since reclaimed water is approved for agriculture but not domestic use, we can supply all of South County's agricultural needs by reclaiming water we have already spent millions to clean up in our sewage treatment plants. But since San Felipe water is suitable for domestic use, approval of the Project will only result in the extension of urban sprawl from San Jose to Salinas.

Much is made of the drought, but when Delta water quality standards are enforced, San Felipe will not deliver water in dry years.

Water and money: We have all the water we need, and passage of this measure will only burden us with exorbitant water bills for the privilege of subsidizing endless urban sprawl. It's a bad investment. Vote no!

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REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE H

We face a water shortage and Marin County-type rationing unless we continue to manage our water resources wisely. Revenue bonds will provide the water and distribution system we need.

Good quality, dependable and economical water from San Felipe is to be provided by the Federal government. Revenue Bonds will construct water system improvements of \$56 million—NOT the grossly exaggerated amount claimed by water opponents.

No one expects free water! When San Felipe is ready, we will buy the water.

Water is an essential of life; comparison to a sports arena is ridiculous!

Measure H provides revenue bonds, rather than expensive pay-as-you-go financing. Property taxes and water rates will be LOWER under Measure H.

Revenue Bonds will allow future generations to share costs.

Don't let water opponents mislead you. Measure H will provide funds for reclamation. However, conservation and reclamation cannot alone meet our future water needs.

Measure H WILL NOT CAUSE GROWTH. Only enough water to meet low population projections is planned. It will help SAVE South County agriculture, not promote urban sprawl. Agriculture, which needs as much or more water as homes, strongly supports Measure H.

San Felipe water WILL be available in dry years! Because imported water will be stored underground, we can take less of it in dry years to help protect Delta water quality and environment.

Measure H will benefit every resident and enhance our quality of life.

Vote for human needs!

Vote YES FOR WATER. YES ON H!

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Executive Director
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Courtland Rush
Chairman, Board of Directors
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Building Trades Council

Howard W. Campen
Chairman, Citizens for Water

The undersigned authors of the rebuttal to the Arguments Against Ballot Proposition H at the Special Election for the Santa Clara Valley Water District to be held on May 31, 1977 hereby state that such rebuttal argument is true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief.

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Executive Director
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