



Local Ballot Measure: U

Arguments and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors. We print them exactly as submitted.

Argument Against Measure U

Several thousand homeowners in the old Marina have paid taxes in the last 30 years to construct the existing Police and Fire Station on Palm Avenue. Now the city wants these homeowners to pay additional taxes again for the next 30 years to pay for a new Police and Fire Station in the former Fort Ord. Marina City Manager and Fire Chief stated that City still uses this existing facility to serve the Old Marina.

When Fort Ord closed in 1994, City of Marina knew that it needed a new fire station to serve new development. The US Government gave Marina a parcel of land on 9th Street to build a new fire station.

But City of Marina did not collect enough fees or asked developers to contribute to the construction of a new police and fire station to serve increases in population and businesses at Sea Heaven and the Dunes projects.

Consultant recommended that City of Marina constructs two new fire stations. One is near the intersection of Imjin Parkway and California Avenue. The second one is near the intersection of Beach Road and Del Monte Boulevard to serve the northern parts of Marina and the Marina Station project.

But City of Marina does not really know when the new fire station near Beach Road and Del Monte Boulevard will be built while several hundred homes in the northern parts of Marina still receive poor service since they are further away from the existing fire station.

Additionally, City of Marina allows development at the Marina Station project without a new fire station. It is similar to the development at Sea Heaven and the Dunes without a new fire station. Will City of Marina ask voters for a new tax to pay for the construction of this fire station?

Vote NO on Measure U

/s/ Peter Nghe Thu Le, Citizen

/s/ Gary P. Krejsa, Citizen

/s/ Charles Richello, Citizen

Rebuttal To Argument Against Measure U

In the 1990's, Marina built the best combined police and fire station it could afford. It served us well for 30 years but is now functionally obsolete and located in the wrong location to allow for fast emergency response times for both old and new Marina residents.

Marina's old infrastructure from roads to water systems, to parks, public safety and community facilities must be repaired and replaced. New developments are paying the maximum fees allowed by law which will help fund construction of needed new city facilities, but these funds are restricted to specific uses and cannot replace old buildings.

Marina has engaged our community extensively over the past three years with open houses, surveys, mailings, and Council meetings. Experts have assessed the condition of our facilities and recommended plans to address Marina's current safety needs.

Voting Yes on U provides locally controlled funding to build a critical new fire station, police station, and community center. Paying for these projects from the city's existing budget would require cutting other essential services and will take decades. The needs are urgent today and the safety of our community is at stake. With Measure U, we can immediately address these critical safety issues.

Marina is laying the foundation for an exciting future. Voting Yes on U provides the safe and up-to-date city facilities needed to keep us safe now and in the future.

Measure U will allow first responders to quickly arrive in an emergency.

Remember, voting Yes on U keeps YOU safe!

/s/ Elisabeth Visscher, Mayor Pro Tem

/s/ Christopher Johnson, President MPOA

/s/ Katherine Y. Biala, Councilmember

/s/ Randolph Hopkins, Chief of Police

/s/ Kayden Gibson, MPFFA President