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Argument Against Measure AA

The proposed 1% sales tax increase for unincorporated Monterey County is a bad idea. Here's why you should vote against it.

Unjust Burden: The Monterey County Board of Supervisors (BoS) is unjustly singling out residents of unincorporated Monterey County to shoulder the burden of added sales tax. We pay the Supervisors generously to do the hard work of balancing the Monterey County budget. They decide to cut or approve department budgets, and we depend on them to control spending and stay within budget. For 2024-2025 FY the Supervisors grew the budget by 4.9%. An increase of $100M. While families are having to trim their our own budgets, the BoS want to balance the county budget with a tax on the backs of only unincorporated county residents. This is unjust.

Misleading Promises: The Supervisors promise the tax revenues will be used for roads, pothole repair, or other listed items, but in reality, the tax revenue would go into the General Fund and can be lawfully used for <u>any</u> purpose they choose, including covering a $26.3 million budget deficit, or offsetting this year's estimated $10.4 million unfunded pension liability contribution. The 30-year Measure X sales tax passed by the voters in 2016 has already supplied approximately $200M dedicated for roads and road repairs, and will continue to generate funds for that purpose.

Ineffective Solution: Instead of addressing revenue, the Supervisors must confront their spending problem. They recently approved a $2.01B budget for 2024-2025, but there is a projected $40.3M budget shortfall in two years. The proposed sales tax increase would generate an estimated $29M, barely making a dent in the projected deficit.

A tax-hike is a temporary fix, not a sustainable solution. It underscores a deeper issue of fiscal irresponsibility. Say NO to tax waste. Vote NO on Measure AA.

/s/ Rosemarie Barnard, Small Business Owner

/s/ William O. Lipe, Businessman

/s/ Doris Gularte, Farmer

/s/ Thomas Dominy, Sales Representative

/s/ Kim Burdett, Bookkeeper

Rebuttal To Argument Against Measure AA

Don't be misled by opponents of Measure AA. Vote YES on Measure AA for a safer, stronger Monterey County.

Fairness. Measure AA does not unfairly burden unincorporated residents. Cities set their own sales tax. Measure AA ensures rural areas get the funding they need for improvements—not the cities.

Direct Benefits. Measure AA's revenue will improve roads, increase Sheriff patrols, enhance fire protection, and maintain parks—all crucial for rural and unincorporated residents. These benefits stay in your community, not the cities, and improve services that directly impact your safety and quality of life.

Budget Realities. Monterey County's budget is heavily tied to state and federal mandates, leaving limited discretionary funds for local needs. Claims of a $26.3 million deficit are misleading—the county has already eliminated the deficit by making tough budget cuts and reallocating funds to prioritize road repairs and public safety. Measure AA provides the additional resources necessary to address these critical gaps.

Insufficient Funds from Measure X. Most Measure X funds go to city streets and state or federal highways, leaving only a small portion for the county's rural roads. Measure AA is essential for accelerating much-needed improvements for fixing our roads and improving public safety.

Invest in Your Community. Voting **YES on Measure AA** is an investment in safer roads and better emergency services with more deputies and increased fire protection. Join your neighbors and community leaders in supporting Measure AA to build a stronger, safer Monterey County.

/s/ Bill Monning, California State Senate Majority Leader Emeritus

/s/ Simon Salinas, Monterey County Supervisor - Ret

/s/ Matt Gourley, Small Business Owner

/s/ Priscilla Walton, Community Activist

/s/ Alicia Metters, Social Worker Monterey County