

MEASURE A
IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY CITY ATTORNEY, CITY OF ARCATA

Measure A asks voters to approve a special tax of \$37 per parcel per year to raise revenue for funding improvements and maintenance of City owned or controlled open spaces, parks, trails, forests and other working lands. Such open space areas include the community and neighborhood parks; the Sunny Brae, Arcata, and Jacoby Creek Community Forests; the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Area; the Aldergrove Marsh; the Gannon Slough/Jacoby Creek Wildlife Area; the Arcata Ridge Trail, Humboldt Bay Trail, Annie Mary Trail and the California Coastal Trail, and the public trails available to access these areas. The tax is expected to raise approximately \$175,000 per year.

Revenue from the tax would be placed into a special fund and restricted to be used only for defined activities including, for example:

- Construction of new trails;
- Acquisition of new open space property, conservation easements, and public access trails;
- Improvement, operation, maintenance, restoration, preservation and/or monitoring of open space areas, habitats, forests, and agricultural conservation easements;
- Maintenance, replacement, expansion, addition, and improvement of park facilities; and
- Planning, designing, managing, and administrative support for the above activities.

Measure A requires two thirds approval by the electorate in order to pass. If approved, a City ordinance defining and implementing the new tax would automatically be adopted. The ordinance could not be revised except through additional voter approval. For example, the tax rate and allowable uses of tax revenue could not be changed unless revised through future voter approval. The proposed tax does not have an expiration date.

If approved by two thirds of the voters at the November 3, 2020, election, the ordinance implementing the new tax would go into effect upon voter approval.

A **YES** vote approves the measure.

A **NO** vote rejects the measure.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Nancy Diamond
City Attorney, City of Arcata