

## **ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE A**

Vote No on Measure A. The case in favor of Arcata's proposed Open Space tax measure simply has not been adequately made. The role of the Arcata Community Forest Management Plan was to fully cover the costs of managing trails, access, maintenance and improvements. We have long understood that the revenue from timber management would fluctuate and would provide varying levels of economic resources according to market conditions. This has worked for many decades.

There have also been numerous community events such as equestrian and mountain bike based fund raisers that have supplemented the timber revenue stream to help support trail improvements and property acquisitions.

Many of us enjoy the surrounding trails that have been created by this model. If that model is no longer functional, we should have a more involved conversation as to why it is not before burdening city residents with an additional and unnecessary tax in a time when essential services are being slashed.

Arcata has recommitted (which we support) to easing the path to affordable housing and it now seems counter-productive to attempt to add yet another tax that would accompany the steep increases in critical services such as water and sewer.

The details as to how this regressive tax revenue would be spent is extremely vague. This ill-defined wish list was meant to be paid for by effective forest management as outlined in the Forest Management Plan. The Community Forest management needs to be reevaluated before burdening Arcata residents with another regressive tax.

No on A.

/s/ Uri Driscoll, President, Humboldt County Taxpayers League

/s/ Kent Sawatzky, Executive Director, Humboldt County Taxpayers League