

The Corte Madera Town Attorney’s Impartial Analysis of Measure F:

If adopted by the voters, Measure F would do two things. First, the Measure would eliminate the existing Corte Madera storm drainage property tax of \$98 yearly per residential unit or per 1,000 commercial square feet, a tax that would otherwise not end until April 2023. Second, the measure would increase the existing Corte Madera transactions and use tax (“sales tax”) from a half-cent (1/2¢) rate to a three-quarter cent (3/4¢) rate and extend that sales tax from its current April 2020 expiration date until the tax is ended by the voters.

It is estimated that extending and increasing the sales tax would generate \$3,500,000 annually. These funds would continue to go in the Town’s general fund and could be used for any unrestricted general fund purpose as determined by the Town Council, including, but not limited to, flood, sea level rise and disaster preparedness; fire prevention; street repair; improved traffic flow; safety improvements; 911 response; and senior/youth programs.

The sales tax would apply only to purchases that are currently subject to the existing sales tax. For example, purchases of groceries, prescription drugs and medical devices would continue not to be taxed.

The Measure requires that the collection, management and spending of the sales tax proceeds be audited yearly by an independent auditor and presented to the Town Council. The audit report would be available to the public.

In addition, the Town Council would continue to be required to appoint a Citizens Oversight Committee made up of Town residents to review and report to the Town Council on the amount of sales tax revenue collected, and how that revenue is spent.

A “yes” vote on Measure F is a vote to (1) eliminate Corte Madera’s existing storm drainage property tax, and (2) extend Corte Madera’s existing sales tax at an increased three-quarter cent (3/4¢) rate until the tax is ended by voters.

A “no” vote on Measure F is a vote to (1) keep Corte Madera’s existing storm drainage property tax in place until that tax expires in April 2023, and (2) maintain Corte Madera’s current half-cent (1/2¢) sales tax, without any increase to that rate, only until April 2020 when the sales tax currently expires.

Measure F was placed on the ballot by the Town Council. A simple majority (50% plus 1) of the voters voting on the Measure must also approve it before it can take effect.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure F.

Teresa. L. Stricker
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Date