



Measure A for Marin Parks, Open Space and Farmland

Dear Friends and District Two Residents,

I'm sending you information about Measure A for parks, open space and farmland. Please take the time to read about this important measure.

On August 7, 2012, after an extensive public process, the Marin County Board of Supervisors unanimously placed Measure A on the November 6, 2012 ballot for voters to consider. Measure A is a ¼-cent, 9-year local sales tax measure to protect the open space, parks and farmland that are essential to keeping Marin County an extraordinary and healthy place to live, work and play.

Measure A will generate \$10 million annually for nine years and includes a detailed expenditure plan developed through a series of public meetings. Funds would be allocated to Marin County Parks, to saving family farms and ranches and for use by cities, towns and special districts to manage their parks, nature preserves, recreation programs and vegetation to reduce wildfire risk.

Importantly, the measure calls for fiscal accountability with the requirement for an independent Citizen Oversight Committee, mandatory financial audits and annual reports. Additionally, funds can't be spent on administrator salaries or pensions and can't be taken by the state government including state parks.

Our parks, open space and farmlands are a community legacy that has taken decades to build. We all benefit from them. We enjoy and depend on having these trails, natural areas, playgrounds, and fresh local food. Our parks, open space and family farms are what define Marin County.

Budget pressures and dwindling resources have led to the deterioration of county parks and preserves, and place unprotected farmland at risk of development. We have fallen behind in our ability to provide adequate maintenance, enforcement, and stewardship of our parks and open space. Our ability to reduce wildfire risk and protect wildlife and biodiversity by providing for the careful management of natural lands is being compromised.

Measure A will help our community raise needed funds to maintain our parks and open spaces protect our family farms, and preserve vital unprotected lands should the tax become available. To learn more about this important measure, visit <http://www.marincountyparks.org/Depts/PK/About-Us/Main/BallotMeasure>.

Thank You,

Supervisor Katie Rice