

## **Arguments in Favor of and Against Measure U**

By Bill Coburn

The following are the Arguments in Favor of and Against Measure U, the User Utility Tax initiative on the Sierra Madre April 8<sup>th</sup> election, as they will appear on the sample ballot for the April 8<sup>th</sup> election. These have been provided to us by the City Clerk. Citizens will be asked to say yea or nay regarding the initiative. The Argument in Favor of Measure U was prepared by all five City Council Members. There was no Argument Against Measure A filed.

### **ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE U**

The Sierra Madre City Council, on the recommendation of a citizens committee, and with the support of our local police and many concerned residents urges a "Yes" vote on Measure "U". We all agree Measure "U" is critical to the future of Sierra Madre. Measure "U" is necessary to fairly compensate and retain our police officers, preserve our vital paramedic program and continue to provide services that reflect long-held community values including library, parks and recreation, and senior programs.

Why Measure "U"? A citizens committee, at the City Council's request, examined the city's budget and projected revenues. They reviewed a budget that curtails street resurfacing, provides no pay raises for city employees, and funds paramedic services for only two years - all on top of prior budget cuts. After three months of analysis these citizens concluded there is nothing left to cut and unanimously recommended an increase in the utility users tax (UUT) as the fairest way to address the problem.

Measure "U" provides a gradual increase in the UUT ceiling phased in over three years that will preserve essential city services. Measure "U" is transparent as it requires a citizens committee to review expenditures annually. Measure "U" protects those of limited means with a low income exemption and also protects voters as the increases it proposes must be re-approved by voters in the future.

Sierra Madre is an All-America city because it has faced and overcome challenges as a community. The financial constraints of the future are our biggest challenge yet. Measure "U" is a fair and prudent way for us to meet that challenge together. Please vote "Yes" on Measure "U".

*/s/ Enid Joffe, Mayor*

*/s/ Joseph Mosca, Mayor Pro Tem*

*/s/ John Buchanan, City Councilmember /5/ Don Watts, City Councilmember*

*/s/ Kurt Zimmerman, City Councilmember*

### **ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE U**

(None Filed)