COUNTY OF SONOMA
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT FORMATION
MEASURE A

Shall the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District be created and established?

FULL TEXT OF MEASURE A

RESOLUTION NO. 90-1532
Dated: August 14, 1990

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SONOMA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, CONCLUDING THE PUBLIC HEARING, CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION ON THE FORMATION OF THE SONOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT, ORDERING NOTICE OF ELECTION, ORDERING CONSOLIDATION OF THE SPECIAL ELECTION WITH THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 6, 1990, REFERRING THE MATTER TO THE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION EXECUTIVE OFFICER PURSUANT TO PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 5517.1, AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 90-1419, DATED JULY 24, 1990

WHEREAS, this Board did on July 10, 1990 adopt resolution no. 90-1286 noticing a public hearing on the question of the formation of the proposed Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District; and

WHEREAS, that public hearing has been correctly noticed and all persons present were allowed to hear and be heard; and

WHEREAS, following the conclusion of the public hearing this Board did adopt resolution no. 90-1419, dated July 24, 1990 which resolution incorrectly set forth the language of the ballot measure in a manner that does not meet the requirements of Public Resources Code section 5518;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors hereby finds, declares, determines and orders as follows:

1. That the foregoing recitations are true and correct.
2. That the public hearing is concluded.
3. The name of the district shall be the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District.
4. The reason for forming the district is to further the state policy on the preservation of open space expressed in Government Code section 65562 and to implement the Agricultural and Open Space Elements of the 1989 Sonoma County General Plan.
5. That the District shall only purchase interests in real property from willing sellers.
6. That all lands within the boundaries of the district will be benefitted by being included within the district.
7. It is proposed that the district will be financed by gifts, grants, special taxes, general obligation bonds and other sources of revenue authorized by law or any combination thereof.
8. The boundaries of the district be coterminous with the boundaries of the County of Sonoma.
9. The annual appropriations limit of the district shall be $20 million.
10. A special election on the following question is hereby called to be held on November 6, 1990:

Shall the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District be created and established?	YES NO

11. The special election is hereby ordered consolidated with the November 6, 1990 general election and the County Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to do all things required by law to conduct the election.
12. In accordance with Public Resources Code section 5517, the Clerk shall cause a certified copy of this resolution to be published once a week for three successive weeks prior to the date of the election in the Press Democrat.
13. In accordance with Public Resources Code section 5517.1, the Clerk shall deliver a copy of this resolution, within five days of its adoption, by registered mail to the Executive Officer of the Sonoma County Local Agency Formation Commission for the preparation of an impartial analysis to be included with the sample ballot.
14. That the formation of the District is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act as a program or project which is submitted to a vote of the people [California Administrative Code §15378(b)(4)].
15. That resolution no. 90-1419, dated July 24, 1990, is hereby rescinded.

SUPERVISORS:
NICHOLAS absent HARBERSON aye SMITH absent
CARPENTER aye ESPOSTI aye
AYES 3 NOES 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 2
SO ORDERED.

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY EXECUTIVE OFFICER
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT FORMATION
MEASURE A

This proposition is to form the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District would be a governmental entity, with the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors serving as the governing body of the district. The boundaries of the district would be the same as the boundaries of Sonoma County.

The primary purpose for forming the district is to implement state policy (as expressed in Government Code Section 65562) to recognize that open space is "a limited resource which must be conserved whenever possible." This public entity would have the authority to accept donations of real property and purchase real property from willing sellers for the purpose of open space and agricultural preservation. The district would be prohibited from exercising the power of eminent domain to acquire property.

If formed, the district would be financed by gifts, grants, special taxes, general obligation bonds, and other revenue sources permitted by law. However, the measure in and of itself would not authorize the levy of any taxes. If formed, it is proposed that the district be financed through a contract with the Sonoma County Open Space Authority. The Open Space Authority has placed a quarter-cent sales tax measure on the November ballot for the purpose of financing open space acquisition.

A favorable vote on this issue would result in the formation of the district and set an annual appropriations limit. The vote required to confirm the formation of the district is a majority favorable vote on the question.

s/ Vivian Look
Assistant Executive Officer
Sonoma County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE A
SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT FORMATION

The Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District has broad-based, nonpartisan support. Businesspeople, farmers, environmentalists and elected officials all worked together to put this measure on the ballot. Now it's your turn to take action. We urge you to vote YES.

We believe that a majority of Sonoma County residents want a stable agricultural economy, protection of natural habitat, greenbelts separating our cities and soothing scenic vistas.

The District would have NO REGULATORY AUTHORITY. It would work with WILLING SELLERS to VOLUNTARILY implement the Agricultural, Open Space and Resource Conservation Elements of the Sonoma County General Plan.

We think it important to know that the District can ACCEPT GIFTS of land, development rights and specific easements. It can also PURCHASE these real estate interests AT FAIR MARKET VALUE from WILLING SELLERS. Landowners who donate or sell conservation easements (also known as agricultural, scenic and open space easements) voluntarily give up development rights, not ownership. They still own the land and can keep it, sell it or pass it to heirs.

It is also important to know that AGRICULTURAL LAND can continue to be used for agricultural purposes.

The formation of the District will not cost the taxpayers any money.

TO PRESERVE OUR AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE, OUR SCENIC BEAUTY AND OPENNESS, OUR AIR AND WATER QUALITY AND TO PREVENT URBAN SPRAWL, WE ASK EVERYONE TO VOTE YES ON THIS MEASURE.

s/ Mitchel Mulas
Dairy Farmer
s/ W.C. "Bob" Trowbridge
Recreational Businessman
s/ Clint Wilson
Businessman
s/ Bill Carle
Attorney
s/ Dee Swanhuyser
Board of Directors
Greenbelt Alliance

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST THIS MEASURE WAS SUBMITTED