

Rallying the Grassroots!

As the air starts to cool and our mailboxes start filling with political literature, we're all reminded that it's fall, and with it election season. There are some very important state issues to be decided on, but we also have some very important local issues to vote on which will indefinitely determine our quality of life for the future here in Sonoma county.

Yes on Measure R (the passenger rail initiative) is very critical because it will remove an estimated 5,300 car trips a day off of highway 101, effectively removing approximately 120,000 lbs. of greenhouse gas emissions per day! Yes on Measure F (the open space renewal initiative) will help the Sonoma County open space district (which is recognized as one of the best in the nation) to continue to protect our greenbelts for another twenty years.

As the biggest and best political watchdog group in the county we always work full time to turn ideals like these into reality. We can't do it alone! We need more help from the grassroots of the county (people power). Citizen participation is essential to the success of every campaign, and this year there are no exceptions.

Volunteer positions for phone banking, precinct walking, and data entry are always available as well as paid positions for canvassers. Set aside a few hours between now and the election to serve the best interest of your community and win some votes for measures R and F.

The time to act is now!

Call (707) 571-8566 to become one of our dedicated team of staff and volunteers who are working tirelessly to Get Out The Vote this November 7th! ♦

Yes on Measures F and R

By Nick Caston and Steve Rabinowitsh

Sonoma County has a long tradition of leadership when it comes to protecting the environment, preserving farmland and



Photo: Sonoma Coast and Willow Creek Watershed

creation of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, one of the first publicly funded programs for agricultural land preservation in the US, and the first publicly supported district of its kind in the United States. It's also why numerous communities have established urban growth boundaries over the years to prevent Sonoma County from becoming a victim of sprawl.

At the same time, we recognize that healthy economic growth is important to supporting our communities, providing us with good-paying jobs and paying for the services which give us a good quality of life. And even though economic growth can sometimes create unwanted impacts on our communities—most notably, traffic congestion—we have stepped up to address those impacts.

Two measures on the November ballot provide us with an opportunity to help balance the competing forces of growth and preservation and continue improving our quality of life for generations to come.

Measure F reauthorizes the funding that voters approved in 1990 to support the land preservation activities of the Open Space District, activities which over the past 16 years have enabled us to permanently protect and preserve more than 70,000 acres of clean water sources, scenic vistas, wildlife habitat, working farms and vineyards, as well as provide parks and trails.

The District has protected over 33,000 acres of agriculture, 17,000 of greenbelts around our cities, 34,000 acres of natural

open space and creating livable communities.

That's why voters in 1990 approved the crea-

resource lands like forests, and wildlife habitats, as well as almost 14,000 acres of land for recreation. The District has protected a great deal of land along our creeks and the Russian River and is helping keep our water clean. It has helped create parks and trails in our cities, including the Windsor Town Green, the Prince Memorial Greenway in Santa Rosa, the Cloverdale River Park, and additions to Shollenberger Park in Petaluma. It has purchased major scenic areas like Taylor Mountain, the Montini Ranch in Sonoma and Saddle Mountain in Santa Rosa.

Measure R asks voters in both Sonoma and Marin counties to approve a quarter-cent sales tax for the next 20 years to establish passenger rail service in the North Bay, also known as the SMART train.

SMART empowers communities to concentrate new residential and commercial development along the rail line and near train stations, rather than pushing into farmland and open space on their fringes. Known as transit-oriented development, this kind of smart growth honors the decisions that voters have already made to approve urban growth boundaries and contain future development within our existing urban centers.

Creating commuter rail service and preserving farmland and open space work hand in hand toward protecting Sonoma County against the kind of rapid and unplanned development that has created sprawl in other areas of the Bay Area and the state. And despite the successes we've had in preventing rampant sprawl, we must continue to work on all fronts to ensure Sonoma County manages its growth wisely.

Make the smart choice and VOTE YES on both Measure R and Measure F.

Together they will preserve Sonoma County's quality of life as the county grows by reducing traffic congestion, cutting air pollution from cars, and preserving our water quality, natural areas and working farms. ♦

Nick Caston, candidate for the SRJC Board of Trustees, is co-chair of the committee for Measure R; Steve Rabinowitsh is a member of the Santa Rosa City Council and serves on the committee for Open Space, Agriculture and Clean Water.

Conservation Action Endorsements 2006

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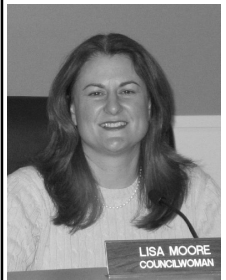
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Vote No on Prop 90

Prop. 90 will significantly hurt efforts to protect our environment.

Prop. 90 on the November ballot is a classic bait and switch. Proponents are trying to sell this to voters as eminent domain reform, but hidden in the fine print of the measure are extreme provisions that would erode our ability to pass laws that protect natural resources, wildlife and habitat, ensure water quality and adequate water supplies, and regulate growth and development.

Prop. 90 will require new payouts any time the most basic law or regulation is passed except those intended to protect the narrowly-defined public health and safety. That's because the measure redefines "damages," allowing virtually anyone to sue claiming a new law or regulation has impacted the value of their property or business – no matter how far-fetched the claim. These new "pay to protect" provisions mean taxpayers pay, or state and local governments would be unable to enact the most basic protections of our environment and quality of life.

The number of environmental protections that could trigger Prop. 90's provisions is virtually limitless:

- 1) Urban limit lines and other growth control measures could arguably diminish the possible future value of property and therefore require compensation under Prop 90. Even routine land-use approvals (or denials) and general plan updates could be subject to Prop. 90's payout provisions.
- 2) Any new or expanded protections of endangered or threatened wildlife and habitat could trigger payouts under Prop. 90 to those who claim these protections have caused them substantial economic loss – making wildlife and habitat protections cost-prohibitive or impossible to enact.
- 3) Any new action to protect our coast could trigger Prop. 90 payouts including new restrictions on off-shore oil and gas drilling, approval of new coastal development permits by the Coastal Commission

and designations of marine reserves to protect fish or other ocean habitat.

- 4) Approval of new timber harvest permits could trigger payouts because companies could sue if the number of trees authorized to be harvested was less than they desired.

As extreme as the environmental dangers are, the potential negative impacts of Prop. 90 don't stop there. Prop. 90 could also impact inclusionary housing and rent control ordinances, consumer protections such as anti-fraud measures, historic preservation efforts and many other kinds of basic laws that protect people and make communities better, safer places to live.

Conservation organizations, labor, public safety organizations, local governments and many others groups are opposing Prop 90. The time to act is now. Visit www.NoProp90.com to sign up with the campaign and find out how you can help defeat this dangerous measure between now and Election Day. Protect our voter approved Urban Growth Boundaries by voting No on Prop 90! ◇

Visit *SCCA's Political Action Committee*
www.conservationaction.org/gi/PAC

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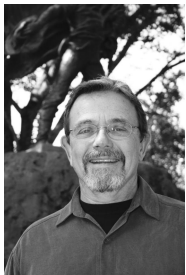
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Field Organizers Needed for Canvass Team

Looking for progressive work? Do you know someone who is? SCCA is currently hiring organizers for our canvass team. We are looking for friendly and outgoing people to go door-to-door. Experience in political organizing and fundraising a plus, but we will train qualified people.

Full and part-time available, plus health benefits. Contact SCCA at 571-8566 or email scca@conservationaction.org.



W. County High School Board

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If Your Membership
 Has Expired,
PLEASE RENEW! !

SCCA's Nov. 7th General Election Endorsements		VOTE YES ON PROP 1C
<i>Local Council and School Boards</i>	SRJC Board	<p>Prop 1C is a bond initiative that will provide 2.85 billion dollars to programs that finance the development of affordable housing and infrastructure related to housing development.</p> <p>The lack of affordable homes near job centers is forcing people to move far from their jobs and commute longer distances - which creates worse traffic congestion and increases air pollution. Programs within Prop 1C prioritize development proposals that are infill, adaptive reuse, or near public transit, schools, recreational facilities, and job centers.</p> <p>Conservation Action urges you to support this important state-wide ballot proposition. For more details, see www.homes4ca.org ◇</p>
Cloverdale Bob Jehn	Nick Caston Steve Benjamin	
Cotati Lisa Moore Pat Gilardi	<i>Local Measures</i>	
Mayor of Petaluma Pam Torliatt	Yes on Measure R-SMART Rail & Trail	
Petaluma Teresa Barrett Spence Burton	Yes on Measure F- Open Space Renewal	
Santa Rosa Caroline Banuelos Susan Gorin Veronica Jacobi	<i>State Props</i>	
Rohnert Park Pam Stafford	Yes on Prop 1c-Affordable Housing Bond Yes on Prop 84-Park Bond Yes on Prop 87-Renewable Energy Bond No on Prop 90-Anti Land Use	
*Sebastopol had no challengers file to run for City Council. Therefore, our endorsed candidates, Larry Robinson and Sarah Glade Gurney, win by default!	<i>State</i>	
Sonoma Council Steve Barbose Ken Brown	2nd Senate District Pat Wiggins 1st Assembly District Patty Berg 6th Assembly District Jared Huffman 7th Assembly District Noreen Evans	
Windsor Council Robin Goble Sam Salmon	<i>Federal</i>	
West County Schools Kellie Noe	6th CA Congressional Lynn Woolsey	

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Contributions to SCCA support our advocacy and grassroots Organizing work. They are not tax-deductible.

Call 571-8868 for regular updates on Yes on F/R Campaigns!

Please circle your preferences!

Regular Membership:	\$25 Entry Level	\$36 Individual
	\$52 Family	\$75 Supporter
	\$120 Sponsor	\$250 Patron

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*Please join our growing list of **Sustaining Members** who give Regularly-scheduled donations via credit card. Call us at the office at 571-8566 for more information*