

Q&A TO BE ADDED TO THE COUNTY'S WEBSITE WHEN THE BALLOTS GO OUT.

**PLEASE WATCH FOR YOUR BALLOT BY MAIL STARTING ON APRIL 2, 2015.**

**What is the MERCSA Esparto Park Maintenance and Operations Measure?**

The Esparto Park Maintenance and Operations Measure is a mailed ballot measure for property owners that, if approved, will annually fund the maintenance and operations of a new community park and aquatics center in Esparto.

**What is MERCSA and what is the role of the County with this measure?**

MERCSA provides storm drain maintenance as well as park and recreation services and facilities. MERCSA is dependent of the County, meaning it acts under the direction of the County Board of Supervisors.

**Why is this new Measure needed?**

MERCSA was awarded a grant from the State Parks Department for the construction of a new community park and pool. The grant does not include any funding for the maintenance or operations of the facilities and the park will not be built if there is not a steady stream of revenue for the annual costs of maintenance and operations.

If the measure passes a new community park, with sports fields, walking trails, and picnic areas, and aquatics center will be built in Esparto.

If the measure does not pass the state will award the grant to another community and the effort to build a community pool in Esparto will continue.

**How would assessment funds be spent? What are the public accountability and fiscal controls?**

The measure includes strong fiscal safeguards and multiple layers of accountability to ensure that all the funds are used properly for the maintenance and operations of the new community park and aquatics center.

Steps to assure accountability and fiscal control include:

- No more than 5% of the proceeds will be used for administration, at least 95% will be used for the maintenance and operations at the Esparto Community Park and Aquatics Center
- The funds from this measure cannot be used toward the County's general fund
- The funds from this measure cannot be taken by the State or any other agency
- Independent annual audits
- Public input on budget allocations
- An annual noticed public hearing

**Is there a public hearing on the assessment? When will results of the ballot proceeding be known?**

A public hearing will be held by the Yolo County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, commencing at 9:00 am, in the Board Chambers, located at 625 Court Street, Room 206, Woodland, CA 95569. You are invited to attend the public hearing.

Tabulation of the returned ballots will commence after the close of the public input portion of the public hearing, and the results of the tabulation are expected to be announced at the Board meeting, around 1:00pm at the same place.

### **How much is this assessment?**

The amount of the first year's assessment is printed on the Official Ballot included with the notice and information item. The assessment rates by property type are provided in the following table. The proposed assessments would raise approximately \$79,000 for fiscal year 2016-17.

(The proposed assessment for your property will not be levied until the community park and aquatics center are constructed)

### **Will the assessment increase in future years?**

If approved, the assessment may be continued in future years. The assessment is expected to be levied beginning fiscal year 2016-17. Thereafter, fees shall not increase by more than the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W and CPI-U) for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA area for the most recent February to February as compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This annual adjustment, which must be reviewed and approved annually at a public meeting, will help keep the assessment revenues in line with the cost of providing park maintenance and improvement services in future years.

### **Will the assessment go on forever? What are the annual continuation requirements?**

The annual assessment continuation process requires that a new Engineer's Report and budget be prepared that lists the coming year's expenditures and assessment. After the Engineer's Report is prepared and preliminarily approved, the Board of Supervisors must hold a public hearing prior to continuing the assessments. This process will repeat each year in order for the assessments to be continued.

### **Overview of how to complete and return your ballot.**

To be tabulated, your official ballot must be signed, marked "Yes" or "No," and received by the Ballot Tabulator before the conclusion of the public testimony portion of the public hearing, which begins at 9:00 am on May 19, 2015.

### **How can I return my ballot?**

You may return your ballot in either of the following ways:

1. Mail it to the address shown in the enclosed, return envelope with stamp included so it is received on or before May 19, 2015.
2. Deliver it in person by May 19, 2015 (before 8:30 am and previous to the close of the public input portion of the public hearing) to the tabulator, the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors located at 625 Court Street, Rm 204, Woodland, CA 95695
3. Deliver it in person to the public hearing which is scheduled to begin at 9:00 am on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, in the Board Chambers, located at 625 Court Street, Room 206, Woodland, CA 95695.

### **What is the deadline for returning my ballot?**

To be counted, ballots must be received before the close of the public testimony portion of the public hearing scheduled to begin at 9:00 am on Tuesday, May 19, 2015. This deadline applies regardless of whether the ballot is mailed or hand delivered at the public hearing.

### **If my ballot has an May 19 postmark, will it be counted?**

No. The ballot must be received before the close of the public testimony portion of the public hearing scheduled to begin at 9:00 am on Tuesday, May 19.

### **Who can sign the ballot?**

1. If the property is owned by an individual, the individual may sign.
2. If two or more persons own the property, any co-owner may sign for all.
3. If the property is owned by a corporation, the ballot may be signed by any corporate officer. It also may be signed by any other person authorized by a resolution or minutes of the corporation's board of directors or the corporation's bylaws.
4. If the property is owned by a partnership, the ballot may be signed by any partner authorized by law. For a general partnership or limited partnership, any general partner may sign.
5. If the property is owned by a public agency, the ballot may be signed by the chair, mayor or other head of the governing body. It may also be signed by any other person authorized by a resolution, board order, or minutes of the governing body.
6. If a property is owned by another legal entity, such as a trust or limited liability company, the ballot may be signed by any person authorized by law to make contracts for the entity.

### **I own several properties. Why did I receive only one ballot?**

Ballots can list up to 14 parcel numbers. Property owners that own more than one piece of property with the same mailing address in the Assessment District will receive one ballot with up to 14 of their properties listed on the ballot as well as the proposed assessment for each property. When you cast your ballot, you are casting for all of your properties listed on the ballot.

### **What if a parcel has multiple owners? May the owners vote separately?**

Multiple property owners for a single ballot can request Proportional Ballots to be mailed to each of the property owners. The Proportional Ballot will divide the total proposed assessment of the property among the multiple property owners based on the proportion of ownership of each property owner. This action is only needed if each property owner intends to vote differently on their Proportional Ballot. If each property owner is in agreement on how to vote, then only one property owner may sign and submit the ballot. To request a Proportional Ballot, each property owner must submit information that demonstrates proof of ownership, the proportional share of ownership, name, and mailing address.

If the ownership interest of the owner is not shown on the last equalized secured property tax assessment roll, a request for a Proportional Ballot must include evidence, satisfactory to the County, of the owner's proportional rights in the parcel.