

REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE AA

The argument against Measure AA is simply wrong. As San Mateo County community, environmental, and business leaders, we have researched the facts. Measure AA reduces trash and pollution; expands habitat for fish, birds, and wildlife; and increases public access for shoreline recreation. That's why we're voting YES on AA.

Measure AA protects and restores the Bay for future generations. Scientists agree the bay needs 100,000 acres of wetlands to remain healthy for future generations. There are only 44,000 acres of bay wetlands now, but another 30,000 acres are ready to be restored – the only thing missing is funding.

Measure AA will leverage more state and federal funds for San Francisco Bay, which now receives less federal support for water quality improvement and wetlands restoration than other major estuaries.

Measure AA doesn't create more bureaucracy, but instead disperses funding through existing public agencies and nonprofit organizations to complete essential wetlands restoration projects.

Measure AA includes strict fiscal accountability protections to ensure our tax dollars are going directly to Bay Area wetlands restoration and cannot be taken by the state. An independent citizens oversight committee and annual public reports will ensure transparency.

Measure AA's opponents rehash the same rhetoric they've used against every local ballot measure to generate needed funds for schools, public safety, and traffic relief, but there are no limousines, fancy offices or junkets -- just hard work to restore wetlands, which is not free, but is important for our future.

Vote YES on Measure AA to protect the touchstone of our region – the San Francisco Bay.

Signers:

Jerry Hill, State Senator

Kevin Mullin, State Assemblymember

Lenny Mendonca, Former Chair, Bay Area Council

Mike Mielke, Senior Vice President, Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Cameron Johnson, Mayor of San Carlos