



CITY OF
LA MESA

JEWEL of the HILLS

September 10, 2008

Dear Council Colleagues:

Attached is a resolution adopted by the La Mesa City Council at its September 9, 2008 meeting, opposing the Board of Supervisor's parcel tax proposal.

The wording of our resolution is clear and concise. It is based on the specific actions of the proponents for this proposition. If this measure passes, it will make local cities the future ATM's for the county and validates their neglect to address fire protection in the unincorporated areas in a responsible manner.

This measure is also an "extension" of Proposition 172. For example, our residents currently generate approximately \$6 million dollars per year which goes to the County to fund Proposition 172, a public safety measure. In return, we receive an average of \$250,000 per year as our "fair share." Based on the latest information we have regarding the parcel tax proposal, our residents will pay an additional 1 million dollars per year to fund a service that is the primary responsibility of the county.

Our council supports the concept of taking a regional approach to the critical issue of fire protection in the incorporated areas, but this plan is not the correct approach.

Additionally, a current study by the San Diego Foundation reflects several sobering and alarming projections for our region: "A majority of future growth in the region will occur inland, and because of the ongoing climate change, wild fires will be more frequent and intense."

These projections are further evidence that the hastily adopted proposition for a county wide parcel tax by the Board of Supervisors on August 5, 2008, is flawed.

We respectfully request that your council adopt a similar resolution to ours in opposition to the current parcel tax measure ballot measure. We have the duty and responsibility as local elected officials to protect our residents from being held hostage, again, to a measure that parallels the inequities of Proposition 172.

Respectfully,

Art Madrid
Mayor

Dave Allan
Councilmember

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-092

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA MESA EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO PROPOSITION A - THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO'S COUNTYWIDE PARCEL TAX TO FUND FIRE PROTECTIVE SERVICES

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2008 the San Diego County Board of Supervisors established the Regional Fire Protection Committee, whose purpose was to advise the Board on steps the County could take to ensure our region is better prepared for the next wildfire;

WHEREAS, as a result of the Committee's findings, the Board of Supervisors approved placing a proposition on the November 4, 2008 ballot to establish a regional fire protection parcel tax for improved and enhanced fire resources and services;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of La Mesa supports the concept of taking a regional approach to the critical issue of fire protection in the unincorporated areas, but this ordinance is not the correct approach;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of La Mesa remains completely committed to automatic and mutual aid;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of La Mesa at a Special Meeting on July 29, 2008 voted unanimously to oppose the proposed parcel tax ordinance for the following reasons:

1. **GOVERNANCE:** The cities will generate the majority of the parcel tax revenues yet will not have the majority of the seats on the board of directors.
2. **FINANCIAL COMMITMENT to FIRE PROTECTION:** The City currently spends almost eight million dollars on fire protection to protect a little over 9 square miles, while the County spends fifteen and a half million dollars to protect approximately 3,600 square miles.
3. **ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT:** The two percent annual increase will take the base rate from \$52 to a little over \$94 at the end of thirty years.
4. **LACK of FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES:** San Diego County is the only large urban county in the State that does not have a County fire department.
5. **PROPOSITION 172:** In FY06/07, the County took in 235 million dollars in Proposition 172 revenue and could fund the regional share of twenty five million dollars out of current revenues or out of future growth. Currently, the County spends no Proposition 172 revenue on fire protection.
6. **RESPONSIBILITY:** To date, the County has refused to formally acknowledge their responsibility for fire protection in the unincorporated areas.
7. **LAND USE DECISIONS:** The County continues to approve development in the unincorporated areas while abrogating their responsibility for fire protection onto fire districts.

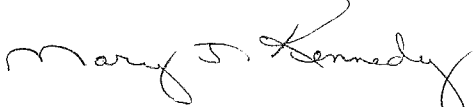
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of La Mesa hereby expresses its opposition to Proposition A on the November 2008 ballot.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of La Mesa, California, held the 9th day of September 2008, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Councilmembers Allan, Arapostathis, Ewin, Sterling and Mayor Madrid
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

CERTIFICATE OF CITY CLERK

I, MARY J. KENNEDY, City Clerk of the City of La Mesa, California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of Resolution No. 2008-092, duly passed and adopted by the City Council of said City on the date and by the vote therein recited.


MARY J. KENNEDY, CMC, City Clerk

(SEAL OF CITY)