Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure P

Despite the proponents' ballot argument, this is not a vote on desalination. This is a wasteful ballot measure asking you to vote on whether you want to vote. The City Council has already passed an ordinance guaranteeing your right to vote; no Council ever elected in this town would reverse that decision. But the desalination opponents felt it was appropriate to waste $70,000 of your tax dollars (the cost of putting this measure on the ballot) so they could have an early opportunity to spread misleading information.

For example, they claim that the City doubled water rates in anticipation of desalination when, in fact, the water system's aging facilities are in serious need of repair and rate increases were primarily needed to provide funds for improvements.

Proponents compare the cost of desalinated water to current water supply costs. Every new source of water would cost more than water flowing downhill from the mountains. A recent Soquel Creek Water District study shows that the financial incentives necessary to get customers to reliably increase conservation would cost more than desalination.

Finally, the proponents argue that the City should "adequately explore alternatives." The City has implemented a highly successful conservation program and continues to aggressively pursue additional alternatives. All the credible evidence, however, makes clear that conservation alone cannot solve our water supply problems.

We encourage you to become more informed. If you want accurate information about the proposed desalination project, go to http://www.scwd2desal.org/ or call (831) 475-8501 x153. Meanwhile, vote NO on this boondoggle!