

Measure W Information

Overview

- Measure W was placed on the ballot by a local citizens group and the Save the Bay organization. This measure would require a two-thirds vote of voters in a citywide election to approve legislative acts by the City Council permitting any use of specifically designated lands for other than agriculture, public parks, restored wetlands, or certain extractions from San Francisco Bay.

What specific properties are affected

- Measure W covers the following properties:
 - Cargill Lands and certain adjacent parcels
 - The Docketown area
 - 7 private homes near Red Morton Park
 - Bair, Greco and Bird Islands
 - 14 of the 32 parks in the City
 - Portions of the Oracle campus
 - The open space area at The Preserve at Redwood Shores development
 - A church, radio station, a wastewater treatment facility (South Bayside System Authority), and other parcels in Redwood Shores Bay Front Zoning District
 - Certain private parcels north of Seaport Boulevard and east of Hwy. 101
 - The lagoons at Redwood Shores, waters around the Port of Redwood City, and certain other bodies of water and submerged lands

What Measure W would do

- Measure W would amend the City's Charter to:
 - Require two-thirds voter approval of any City Council legislative action permitting or approving development of specifically designated lands
 - Legislative action would include amendments to the General Plan, Zoning Ordinance, or Zoning Map, any approval of a development agreement or precise plan, or any other act legislative in nature.
 - Development means any use of the land other than for agriculture, public parks and recreation areas or facilities, restored wetlands, certain extractions from San Francisco Bay, or uses defined as accessory or conditional to the Tidal Plain zoning district
- Measure W's two-thirds vote requirement would apply when a legislative act permits any use of the following land designations for other than agriculture, public parks, restored wetlands or certain extractions from San Francisco Bay:
 - Park
 - Unimproved Areas (land or water)
 - Future Development Expanding Limits of Urbanization
 - Controlled Waterways (Redwood Shores)
 - San Francisco Bay Water (in the General Plan)
 - Tidal Plain, Redwood Shores Bay Front (Zoning Code)

Effect of competing measures

- Measure V and Measure W are appearing on the same ballot. If both measures receive a majority of votes by the voters, then whichever proposed measure receives the most votes will be adopted in its entirety, and no provisions of the other measure will take effect.

Costs

- The cost of placing Measures V and W on the November 2008 citywide ballot is approximately \$45,000, not including staff time.
- Measure W would require a citywide election when a change to an affected property's land-use is approved by the Council. An election resulting from Measure W could be a special election with no other measures on the ballot, with an estimated cost to the City of between \$212,000 and \$247,000, or may be part of a general election or consolidated on a ballot with other measures, at a cost to the City of approximately \$45,000; both in addition to other costs such as city staff time.