

# REPORT

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council  
From the City Manager

August 25, 2008

## SUBJECT

Opposition to initiative measure proposing to amend the Charter of the City of Redwood City, "City Charter Amendment Requiring Two-Thirds Vote of the City Voters to Change the General Plan Designation or Zoning Ordinance Uses for Certain Lands in the City", Measure "W"

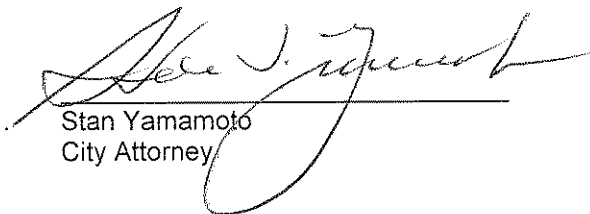
## RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution Expressing the Redwood City Council's Opposition to Measure "W"

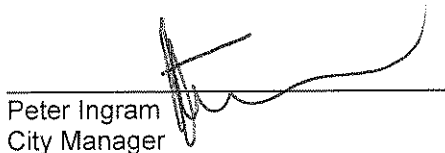
## BACKGROUND

At the August 4, 2008 city council meeting, the City Council resolved to call and give notice for the holding of a special municipal election on November 4, 2008, for the purpose of submitting two proposed charter amendments to the people of Redwood City. The first proposed measure is a city sponsored measure which would require majority voter approval for future development of the Cargill lands, Measure "V". The second proposed measure is an initiative measure which would require two-thirds voter approval of future land uses other than agriculture, public parks, restored wetlands or certain extractions from San Francisco Bay in certain designated areas, Measure "W".

The City Council directed the City Attorney to prepare a resolution setting forth its opposition to Measure "W". In accordance with the City Council's direction, attached is a draft of such a resolution. The City Council may direct that further changes be made to the draft resolution or cause its adoption.



Stan Yamamoto  
City Attorney



Peter Ingram  
City Manager

## ATTACHMENTS

- 1.) Resolution Expressing the Redwood City Council's Opposition to Measure "W"

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA EXPRESSING OFFICIAL CITY COUNCIL OPPOSITION TO MEASURE W AND ENUMERATING THE REASONS THEREFORE**

**WHEREAS**, Measure W entitled, "The City Charter Amendment Requiring Two – Thirds Vote of the City Voters to Change the General Plan Designation or Zoning Ordinance Uses for Certain Lands in the City" ("the Two-Thirds Voter Amendment"), has qualified for the November 4, 2008 General Election ballot in Redwood City, and

**WHEREAS**, the City Attorney of Redwood City as well as outside legal experts have reviewed the provisions of Measure W and identified numerous potential negative impacts to Redwood City homeowners, business owners, property owners and indeed all City taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, Measure W applies to private single-family homes near Red Morton Park and hundreds of docks of private homeowners in Redwood Shores; and

**WHEREAS**, Measure W could restrict development of private lands that are not open spaces; make difficult the ability to rebuild or expand the Veterans Memorial Senior Center in Red Morton Park; restrict any expansion of wastewater treatment facilities; and could result in costly citywide elections; and

**WHEREAS**, Measure W's 2/3 voter approval requirement is a disincentive for, and makes infeasible the proposing of potential development projects thereby circumventing and precluding the public's ability to engage in any meaningful planning and environmental review process by which to assess the City's future; and

**WHEREAS**, Measure W could impose costly and burdensome requirements on the City, and raises the specter of costly lawsuits that the City would have to spend taxpayer dollars to defend, draining away precious and limited funds needed to address public safety and other vital services in the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo has adopted a resolution opposing Measure W because it could create potential regional public safety risks, make building a commuter ferry terminal to reduce regional traffic congestion difficult, and adversely affect the market value of County property.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDWOOD CITY AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The City Council hereby expresses its formal opposition to Measure W.
2. The City Clerk shall certify the adoption of this Resolution and thenceforth and thereafter shall be in full force and effect.

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