



## **Argument in Favor of Measure O – November 8, 2016 Ballot**

On November 6, 2012, Rio Vista voters approved Measure O, a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -cent sales tax, with 69.05% voter support. The revenues from Measure O were used to support continued operations of Rio Vista general services; collection began on April 1, 2013, and (unless renewed by Rio Vista voters) will expire March 31, 2018.

Leading the list of services presently being provided through Measure O are paramedic services to Rio Vista residents, along with such other critical services as police, fire, land-use planning, and-the-like. Especially given the fact that there is no hospital, medical center, nor even a medical doctor in the city, keeping adequate paramedic services in place is vital for all Rio Vista residents, especially local seniors and youth. Since this is a renewal, keeping this sales tax in place will NOT increase local taxes, and all funds will remain within the city.

The City of Rio Vista continues to suffer the effects of the Great Recession; yet, the city's population continues to grow. Public Safety costs have increased from 52% to 58% of the General Fund budget since 2007; yet, General Fund revenues (excluding Measure O) have decreased 37%. Thanks in part to Measure O funding, the City has been able to add five Public Safety positions; however, in order to maintain police, fire, and paramedic services at the current levels, the existing  $\frac{3}{4}$ -cent sales tax must remain in place. If this tax is not renewed, Rio Vista will have an approximate \$215,000 deficit for Fiscal Year 2017-18, increasing to an approximate \$800,000 deficit in FY 2018-19. As a result, critical Police, Fire, and paramedic services may have to be cut. Additional cuts can include street maintenance and closure of the City's youth center and swimming pool.

City Council urges voters to renew the  $\frac{3}{4}$ -cent sales tax for five years.

/s/ Norman Richardson, Mayor, City of Rio Vista

/s/ James McCracken, Vice Mayor, City of Rio Vista

/s/ Constance Boulware, Council Member, City of Rio Vista

/s/ David Hampton, Council Member, City of Rio Vista

/s/ Ronald Kott, Council Member, City of Rio Vista